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PATRIOTIC PIGEONS.

WINGED MESSENGERS WHO SAVE LIVES IN WARTIME.

The pigeon is a bird that has been ridiculously labelled during the war, for no my melodrama or novelette has been complete without one or more of these fascinating birds, and they are always represented as being engaged on the German side. Ever since the original war story of the market woman of Arras, or Rhoima, (it is told by various eye-witnesses of all these towns and many more)—whose figure attracted the attention of the alert soldier and whose bust flew away when they arrested her, the pigeon has laboured under a load of suspicion. Actually the carrier pigeon is a most patriotic bird, and has been the means of saving innumerable lives.

One of the great difficulties of modern warfare is the quick communication of news about local fighting. In the ordinary way every sector of the front is linked up by a complicated system of buried telephone and telegraph wires so arranged that even in the heaviest fighting one or more lines remain intact during the bombardment. In theory it is excellent. In practice the wires get blown up by shells or break underground where a tank passes over them or go wrong somehow, and the engineers of the signal service have to sacrifice valuable lives hunting up the breaks and doing repairs under shell-fire.

In the same way the wire system ends automatically with No Man's Land, and advances made beyond that zone are in an area where no signal communications exist. Messages to keep the staff informed how the day is going, or urgent demands for reinforcements, more bombs or ammunition, all have to be carried by runners who have to pass back through the enemy's barrage to our old line, for first thing after an attack a hostile barrage is put down by the enemy artillery behind it, in order to prevent reinforcements pushing the thrust still deeper into their lines.

MAXIMIAN SAVEN. Pigeons are now doing much of the work of these runners. Experiments were carried out with homers, and it was found that pigeon messengers were both reliable and swift. Troops engaged in an operation are served out baskets of pigeons. They liberate these birds when necessary, and as the speed of a pigeon is some eight hundred yards a minute the message reaches the home loft a mile or so behind the front line in very short time. There the message is dealt with and forwarded by wire, despatch rider, or runner to the authorities concerned.

The Army pigeon is not conscripted for service till he is at least a year old. He is then taken to France, and spends three or more months at a loft or homing station, getting used to his own place. The men in charge of these lofts are pigeon experts, whose civilian hobby is this made vitally useful in time of war. Troops handling pigeons have the birds carried out to them in special light wicker hampers big enough not to cramp the birds, for if these are kept in confined space they may damage their wing or tail feathers, and become less serviceable.

With each hamper are supplies of seed and water and full instructions on how to attach message to the bird's leg. Water, he it noted, is more important than food to a pigeon, for it kept without water and then liberated with a message the thirsty bird flies to the nearest shell hole for a drink, and very probably gets killed.

Pigeons cannot be liberated at dusk, for they simply go to roost on the nearest convenient perch and do not take up the journey until morning. Some birds have done wonders in passing through the stiffest bombardments, others have simply disappeared or gone astray. Sometimes a bird with a vital message will not enter the homing loft, but stays on neighbouring roofs cooing about what it has seen. In such a case, if the pigeon expert cannot coax it in with special blandishments known only to him, the message must be obtained by speedier means, and a shot-gun is kept handy for the purpose.

GERMAN TANKS ROUTED.

The first battle between tanks, of which interesting official details are now available, occurred during the great fighting around Villers-Bretonneux on April 24th. It was the occasion of the debut of the German tanks. Six were sent out with the advancing infantry, and started to roll up our line from the flanks. It was a challenge not to be resisted. Some of our heavy tanks soon put in an appearance, eager for battle, and engaged in a regular duel with the newcomers, and the result was the latter vent lumbering back. Our "female" tanks suffered most, and it was the "male" that finally had the best of the exchanges with the enemy. After the German tanks had beaten a retreat, our new light tanks, which have been christened "whippets," took a hand in the game, and performed with distinction. They attacked the enemy's infantry on the ridge running from Villers-Bretonneux to Hangard Wood, rolling up this line. The ridge was found to be strongly held by machine-gun groups on shell-holes, while on the reverse slopes three German battalions were forming up for an attack. The "whippets" proceeded from shell-hole to shell-hole, firing from 600 to 800 yards, each at ranges varying from ten to 100 yards and they ran down many Germans who were attempting to escape.

It is estimated that the "whippets" inflicted at least 400 casualties on the enemy, and completely broke down the attack which he was preparing. A shell hit destroyed one of these tanks, and three others were slightly damaged, but all were reported to be recoverable. Amongst the personnel we had only five casualties, so that the whole business was carried through, not only brilliantly, but quite cheaply. The engagement may be regarded as a lesson in economy of manpower, for seven tanks, manned by twenty men, put 400 Germans out of action and broke up the attack of a complete brigade. The tanks left their base three and a half miles away a little before mid-day, fought a very successful action, and were back in their "homes" again before three p.m., having covered ten miles. It was a good day for the "whippets."

IMPERSONATING A BROTHER TAKES HIS PLACE IN FIRING LINE.

At Folkestone Police-court recently a well-set-up boy, named Henry Arthur Stevens, was charged with being in military uniform without authority. The Chief-Constable said the boy was brought over from France, but the competent military authority, however, would not consent to proceedings against the boy under the very remarkable circumstances of the case. The boy had an elder brother serving in a regiment, and he went home on leave in November. He failed to return to his unit, so he was notified as an absentee. Inquiries were made by the police, but he could not be found. In February accused dressed himself up in khaki, and surrendered himself to the police by impersonating his brother. Handed over to the military authorities, he was sent to France to join the unit to which he was supposed to belong. He went straight up to the fighting line, and was engaged for 16 days during the German offensive on the Somme. He declared that during that time he killed a good many Germans; in fact, he could not possibly miss them. His impersonation was discovered, and he was sent to England. As the competent military authority declined to grant the necessary permit for a summary prosecution, he had no evidence to offer against the boy. The Chairman (Mr. Boyd): What puzzles me is why they did not find out about him before.

Mr. Reeves: I cannot understand it. The boy has done very wrong in doing what he did, but one cannot help admiring his pluck. The Magistrate discharged the boy, and complimented him upon his pluck.

SNIPER D.A.N.

[BY LIEUT. F. J. SLEATH.]

It was old Dan Haggarty, corporal of the sniping section, who first saw the way to rid No Man's Land of the German snipers who were troubling his battalion. Old Dan was the wildest of the very wildest men who formed the regimental snipers. Therefore his office listened to him, as he explained his idea, with all the consideration which his reputation merited.

"You see, Sir, it's like this," the corporal began. "A man hidin' abint a dyke isna hidden frae a man on the same side o' the dyke as himself. An' though these sniper buddies are hidden well enough frae us in the trenches, if I crawl out an' lie up abint them, I've got a far better chance o' findin' them out."

The officer looked doubtfully at his aged corporal. Old Dan's grandson was helping to carry on his coal contracting business in Glasgow, while he was out in France, furthering his battalion snipers for their love of the game. Throughout the three years which they had been together the officer's liking and respect for the veteran had steadily grown, and the thought of the risks of the job which old Dan was so coolly proposing, made him hesitate to grant permission.

But something had to be done to rid the battalion of the annoyance of the snipers opposite, and the corporal was the best fitted of men for the job. He carried a successful through. So with an earnest caution to be careful, the officer reluctantly gave his consent. Lawn found Old Dan snugly ensconced in a ruined barn a hundred yards from the German lines and nearly eight hundred from his own. The No Man's Land was of broad expanse in this sector.

The British had only recently advanced, and the rival artillery had not yet had time to transform the countryside to the barren waste which marks the long-established trench areas. There were trees, and spinners, and hedge-rows still standing, ideal places for sniping positions and in these hiding places were the German snipers.

It was in quest of these riflemen that the corporal was peering out from among the tumbledown bricks, hoping to be able to despatch one or two of the most troublesome before the day was over. To his own perilous situation, he was certain of the German lines, he never gave a thought. The nether wall of the building rose up a foot or two behind him and screened him from the enemy, and he trusted to his own skill to guard him from the snipers in front.

He had already reckoned out three of these fellows in front of him by carefully noting the shooting going on in the No Man's Land. He had even a rough idea of their position. Two were certainly in the sunken road of which he could see the sloping bank nearest the British trenches. He placed the other among some shell-hole rubble half-way across on his right, but the position of this man was more uncertain than that of the other two, and Dan gave all his attention to studying every irregularity and shade of colour in the sunken road.

For hours he watched as patiently as an animal waiting for its prey, wholly unconscious of the passage of time, knowing eventually that his search would be rewarded; and at last he poked his rifle very cautiously out between the bricks, and two quick shots stretched the jaggers on the roadway, where they lay like heaps of debris disclosed from the bank above.

No more shots were fired in the No Man's Land during the day. It was as if the word had gone round the enemy snipers that a greater than themselves was loose among them, and they were covering down in their covers afraid to move for fear of attracting his attention. "I'll gang out agane if they dinna stop their capers," said Old Dan to his officers after he had crawled to that evening. And as casually as though he had just returned from an ordinary ramble, he walked away down the communication trench to turn in for the night.

INTERVENTION NEEDED.

The Czech-Slovaks are the dominant factor, the peasantry acclaiming them everywhere. They are apparently awaiting instructions from the French or the Consular Body at Vladivostok. The position is ripe for Allied action, which should be taken forcefully. As regards what can be done or how it can be done, the present elements are capable of being moulded to suit the Allies, but if guidance is delayed the opportunity will soon pass.

LABOUR'S NEW DAY.

A "Social Reconstruction" dinner was given by the ladies of the Debating Section of the Lyceum Club recently at their club house in Piccadilly.

Developing an ideal of a six-hour day for manual workers, Lord Leverhulme contended that by improving the efficiency of machinery we could automatically increase the production as well as the consuming power of the nation. The acid test was whether a reduction of the hours of labour led to a greater production at a less cost; and, so far, it had been proved satisfactory, with each reduction in hours, the output had been more than maintained. The question was of especial importance to women, because, while men's daily toil was finished when they left the factory, women always had household work to do as well; and it was only by means of leisure that we became civilised human beings. But just as masters had been mistaken in the past in supposing that the best results could be obtained by the lowest possible wages and the longest possible hours, so workers must realise that the policy of "cash canny" was equally fallacious.

FLOOD RELIEF IN CHIHLI EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS.

Mr. Hsiung Hsi-ling, Director-General of Flood Relief and Conservancy, has submitted a memorial to the President, in which he reports on recent flood relief work in Chihli performed by sundry organizations specially established for this purpose.

It is set out that the flood affected 105 hien and a population of 1,800,000. As it was felt that the funds provided by the Government might be sufficient only for a short period, orders were conveyed to various hien to undertake sundry relief work with funds raised by public subscription. Moreover, the Metropolitan Flood Relief Union Council entrusted officials gentry and Christian Missions to undertake all kinds of charitable work. Regulations were drawn up to govern loan bureaux, refugees, cheap rice bureaux, gruel sheds, charitable mortgage offices, and offices to lend seed to the farmers. All classes of people suffering as a result of the flood were in this way benefited and countless lives were saved. Thus the funds voluntarily subscribed were used to assist in no small degree the Government's relief work.

The following organizations were established and financed by officials and gentry in their respective districts:—130 gruel sheds, 144 cheap rice bureaux, 288 loan bureaux, 69 refugees, 18 seed offices, 26 mortgage offices. The following amounts were raised and material collected:—silver, \$47,148; copper cash 181,134 strings; rice \$5,710, 563 catties; flour 10,000 catties, biscuits 3,000 catties; coal 100 tons. The relief offices established by officials, gentry and Missions under the grant from the Metropolitan Flood Relief Union Council consisted of 228 gruel sheds, 78 refugees, 60 orphanages, 5 work sheds and 8 seed offices, the grants amounting to \$275,630.50. Altogether 1,054 offices were established by the charitable relief organizations, which raised, expended and distributed \$692,778.50, and the copper cash, rice, flour, biscuits and coal enumerated above.

In addition there were Chinese and foreign charitable organizations which were run and financed independently of the Directorate-General. It is hoped to make a report upon these later on.

The Directorate-General states that in spite of these efforts the area affected was so enormous that the available funds were comparatively insignificant and many who should have been helped were unavoidably left without succour.

THE SIBERIAN SITUATION. GEN. HORVATH'S PROGRAMME.

HARBIN, July 10th. General Horvath's Government is temporarily located at Grodskovo, from which place he is negotiating with the Czech-Slovaks at Nikolai.

General Horvath has issued a proclamation announcing his policy which is being circulated. It promises:—

- (1.) Abolition of all Bolshevik laws and ordinances.
- (2.) The restoration of legal tribunals and administrative institutions and self-government for municipalities and zemstvos.
- (3.) The equality of citizenship, the maintenance of citizen equality at law and the maintenance of citizens' rights and liberties.
- (4.) The general right of election.
- (5.) Recognition of all former alliances, conventions and agreements with Allies and neutral countries and also territorial rights of territory.
- (6.) The restoration of the Army with the strictest discipline and without giving the Army political rights.
- (7.) Restoration of the right of private ownership of property.
- (8.) All questions concerning land to be decided by the Constituent Assembly.
- (9.) The restoration of commerce and trade by the abolition of the nationalization and socialization of commercial and industrial organizations.
- (10.) Improvement of popular education.
- (11.) Religious freedom.
- (12.) The right of Siberia and other regions to exercise autonomy as parts of United Russia.

Delegates from Vladivostok are visiting General Horvath with a view to effecting a coalition of General Horvath's Government and the old Siberian Government, which left Harbin for Vladivostok a week ago.

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ACTION AGAINST THE SHANGHAI CLUB.

MEMBER COMPLAINS OF BEING ILLEGALLY EXPELLED.

In H.B.M.'s Supreme Court, Shanghai, on July 11th, before His Honour Sir Havilland de Sausmarez, Gordius Nielsen asked for a declaration that he was still a member of the Shanghai Club and entitled to enjoy and exercise the rights and privileges of such membership.

Plaintiff contended that he had been a member of the Club since 1896, but on June 17th, 1918, the defendant club unlawfully purposed to pass a resolution expelling the plaintiff from its membership, which said resolution the defendant club unlawfully confirmed on July 1st, 1918.

Mr. N. C. Home appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. G. H. Wright for the defendant club.

Mr. Home asked for an order that particulars of defence be filed.

Mr. Wright said they did not know what was meant by "unlawfully." It might mean that the resolution was passed on a hot day or on a wet day, or that there was no quorum present, or that the plaintiff had no notice of the meeting. The defendants must know the grounds upon which the plaintiff relied for the purpose of establishing that he was wrongfully expelled. Counsel asked to be supplied with a proper statement of claim.

Mr. Home said he had no objection to that, but he would ask for discovery before he did so, as there were a good many facts in the case of which the plaintiff had no knowledge. He suspected irregularities of which he had no particular knowledge, and therefore at the present time he could not give proper particulars. Mr. Wright could not see how his learned friend could possibly be in any difficulty, because his claim must be based entirely upon the rules of the club. The whole point was as to whether they had observed the rules of the club. Those the plaintiff had notice of, and it would be easy for him to allege in the statement of claim any breach of the rules which might apply to his claim. The plaintiff must know what his case was. He was served with a notice in respect of the meetings, he attended them, and he must know what grounds he relied upon for saying he was unlawfully expelled.

On July 12th, Mr. Home said that since the sitting of the previous morning he had received a letter from his learned friend saying he was prepared to give counsel in respect of the minutes of all committee and members' meetings which related to the matter of the plaintiff's expulsion. On receipt of that letter Counsel wrote asking also for inspection of the account books of the Club showing payments by members of their subscriptions for May, June and July, 1918. That, he understood from his learned friend, he was not prepared to give.

His Lordship:—I should think not. I should be very much astonished if he had at this stage. I don't say you are never entitled to it.

His Lordship made an order for pleading, the statement of defence to be delivered one week after the statement of claim.

U.S. ESPIONAGE ACT. AN ARREST THAT CAUSED SENSATION.

Something of a sensation was caused in American circles (says the N.C. Daily News) by the arrest of Mr. D. L. McCoy, of 12, Studley Avenue, on a warrant issued under the amended Act of the American Legislature entitled "An Act to punish acts of interference with the foreign relations, the neutrality, and the foreign commerce of the United States, to punish espionage and better to enforce the criminal laws of the United States and for other purposes," which is more commonly known by its shorter title of the "Espionage Act."

McCoy was arrested by Mr. J. Kavanagh, and on being taken before Mr. Tenney, U.S. Vice Consul, was admitted to bail in the sum of \$500.

It appears that some time last month Mr. McCoy wrote a letter to his mother in the United States in which he is alleged to have criticized the U.S. Government in such a manner as to bring him within the terms of the Act. The young man, who is 24 years of age, expressed great surprise at his arrest and protested his loyalty to the American Government.

Mr. McCoy, who was educated at Yale, had previously offered his services to the Yale Military Intelligence Unit in response to their appeal for men proficient in French and German, but was not accepted on account of reluctance to take men from Asia. He also attempted to register for the draft, but was not accepted, being unable to fulfil the requirements of the authorities.

The text of the charge laid against Mr. McCoy is:—"For that he did unlawfully write abusive language about the military forces of the United States of America, said language being intended to bring the form of government and the military forces of the United States into contempt, scorn, contumely and disrepute."

COUNT KAROLYI'S DEMAND FOR AN INDEPENDENT HUNGARY.

A Budapest telegram to the Wiener Zeitung says that Count Michael Karolyi, in the course of a speech at Eger (Bohemia), protested against the extension of an alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary. "We are," he said, "fighting for an independent Hungary. We must obtain independence of the Ukraine, we ought to claim independence in the first place for Hungary. We desire a Hungary which shall be independent in the political, financial, and economic spheres. I, therefore, protest against any extension of the alliance, as it would be an obstacle to our aspirations for independence." Count Karolyi, then explained his peace policy, saying: "We must stand up for a peace by understanding for the preservation of civilization's great possessions."

GENERAL MILITARY SERVICE TRIBUNAL.

TO-DAY'S AGENDA.

3.30 p.m.—*The Asiatic Petroleum Co.*
L. A. Cassart } medically fit.
W. Manning }
M. M. Maas }
Rejected as unfit for service:—N. L. Watson, H. F. Banjo and A. Edwards.
The following man is on leave from the Colony:—R. E. Atwell.
4.10 p.m.—*Brokers.*
H. Hancock—medically fit.
Rejected as unfit for service:—P. Tester, E. B. Layton and H. B. L. Dowbiggin.
4.20 p.m.—*Messrs. Bradley & Co.*
K. S. Morrison.
F. Bevington.
(There are no unfit men of military age in this firm).
4.45 p.m.—*A. Mountain (7th Day Adventists)*—medically fit.
4.50 p.m.—*Grand Hotel.*
W. Barker—medically fit.
(No unfit men of military age.)

THE APPEAL TRIBUNAL

His Excellency the Governor-in-Council will sit at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, the 25th inst., to hear appeals by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire from the decision of the General Military Service Tribunal.

THE MILITARY SERVICE FORCE.

SECOND LIST OF ENROLMENTS.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the following persons shall, as from the date of publication of this List (July 19th), be deemed to have been enrolled in, and to belong to, the General Military Service Force of Hongkong:—
Gordon Maurice Cooke.
Kennedy Bremner Reid.
Alfred Morley.
John Colin Finch.
Reginald Dixon Wilks.
Charles Crawford Stark.
Joshua Brook.
William Thomas Elson.
John Wattie.

The following have been permitted to proceed to the United Kingdom for the purpose of enlisting in His Majesty's regular forces:—

L. H. Loyely.
J. A. Ridgway.
J. H. Ramsey.
R. T. Barton.
F. A. Britton.
P. Lunigan.
C. Aitken.
M. Kennedy.
R. McFall.
P. J. Murphy.
A. Marks.
J. Stout.
W. E. Wilson.

GODOWN COLLAPSES IN DES VŒUX ROAD.

TWO MEN BURIED UNDERNEATH DEBRIS.

Yesterday afternoon, a part of the first floor of godown No. 274, Des Vœux Road, collapsed. A number of men were working in the premises at the time, storing rice, etc., and, at the first sign of danger, rushed out of the building. Two coolies, however, were unable to escape in time, and were buried underneath the debris, including several bags of rice. The work of rescue was commenced promptly, and one of the two men was released. Fortunately, he was not seriously injured. He was attended to by the ambulance men, and then removed to the Government Civil Hospital. The search was continued for the second man, whose body could not be reached until the rice was removed, and this took several hours. It was eventually discovered at about 7 p.m. terribly mutilated, and was removed to the Public Mortuary.

In addition to the Police, the various Ambulance Divisions were in attendance under Drs. Lindsay Wood, Thomas, and Ma Chiu Ki. Mr. A. E. Wright, the Building Authority, also, was present.

AN ECHO OF THE GRESSON STREET TRAGEDY.

NG NING SHOT AT CANTON.

Ng Ning, who was the only man arrested during the Gresson Street tragedy, was shot in Canton by order of the Tachin after being handed over to the local authorities by the Hongkong Police and tried.
Ng was a famous robber in the Shun Tak district, who had committed many offences. He was shot on the northern outskirts of the city with another robber who was also brought from Hongkong.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CANTON, July 19th.

THE CONFEDERATION GOVERNMENT.

The Tachin invited all the important members of the New Government to his yamen on the 18th to discuss important questions in connection with the situation.

HOUSE RENT-TAX.

About \$100,000 has been collected since the house rent-tax scheme has been in force. The scheme is now to be applied to Honan, as the people in Canton are very dilatory in paying this tax.

ROBBERY IN SHEK LUNG.

The authorities learn that the "Li Kin" bureau in Shek Lung was attacked by a gang of robbers last night. The bureau was ransacked and about \$1,000 was seized and several members of the staff were carried off.

THE FLOOD.

It is reported that the flood is increasing in various places.

The Harbour Department has announced that the current is flowing more rapidly and flooding is foreshadowed.

July 21st.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS?

It is reported that the President has sent Ting Nai-yang, the ex-Director of the Salt Revenue Bureau, to consult Shum Chun Huen on important political questions. Ting has reached Shanghai and will proceed to Canton next week.

NORTHERN RECRUITS.

A message from Hoihow states that 1,700 well-armed Northern recruits, commanded by Leung Wing-sun, arrived at King-chow the other day, bringing the total of Northern recruits at King-chow to 4,600.

SWATOW REPORTS.

It is reported that the Canton forces have recently commenced attacks on Wong Kong from various directions. Several important positions have been captured, and fighting is proceeding.

Fighting is reported to have been resumed on other fronts, and the Northern troops, who have just arrived, are in difficulties.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

GAMBLING.

Nine Chinese were charged with gambling.

Inspector Sim stated that gambling had been going on for some days in a house at Wanchai.

Mr. Wolfe fined each defendant \$3, with the alternative of six days' hard labour.

ILL-TREATING A SERVANT.

A Chinese woman was charged, on remand, with ill-treating a little servant-girl.

It will be remembered that complainant informed the Police that her mistress had ill-treated her because she refused to come through the verandah. There were several marks of violence on her body.

Mr. Dyer Ball bound defendant over in a bond of \$100 to be of good behaviour for six months.

A BATTLE IN THE STREET.

Eight Chinese were charged with fighting in the street.

It was stated that one of the men was carrying a basket of stones when he accidentally collided with another man. This was resented, and a quarrel ensued, followed by blows. A clansman who was working near the scene of the quarrel immediately went to the aid of his friend. Thereafter, a general melee took place, several men ranging themselves on either side, and wielding iron bars and wooden poles with considerable effect. The Police, who were apprised of the fight, intervened and arrested the combatants.

Each defendant accused the other of starting the fight.

Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe said that undoubtedly the first four defendants were fighting. The other men were arrested while running away, but were not actually seen taking part in the affray. The second and third defendants were responsible and the first defendant used unnecessary violence. Mr. Wolfe fined the first, second and third defendants \$2 each and bound them over to be of good behaviour. The fourth defendant was also bound over, but the remaining four were discharged.

NEW EYESIGHT TESTS.

An Army Council instruction issued at home regarding the eyesight test officers, recruits, and serving soldiers fixes new standards upon which men are to be graded. In cases below a certain standard they are to be examined by ophthalmic specialists, and those below passed into Category B1, B2, or B3 if one eye has been lost or is completely blind, provided the remaining eye is up to a required standard and has a good field of vision as tested by hand movements. No man will be accepted for any form of military service with a lower standard of vision than that laid down for B2.

PEKING NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, July 11th.

POLITICAL.

China is busy raising loans to pay off others as they fall due, and is becoming more deeply involved as these transactions increase in number. It is well described as frenzied finance. The vine and tobacco loan not having matured owing to objections from certain foreign Powers, the Government had to find other security for the advance so urgently needed to finance the Northern generals, and the resourceful Tsao Ju-lin, who holds the portfolio of Finance concurrently with that of Communications, decided upon the forests and mines of Kirin and Heilungkiang, valuable assets which have been pledged for thirty million yen to the unofficial Japanese group. Beyond occasional newspaper comments, no strong objection is taken to this action. This spendthrift policy is justified by *force majeure*. The South must be conquered and restored to the allegiance of Peking, and money is needed for the purpose, therefore money must be had at all costs. Judged by public statements, the Government is really determined upon the subjugation of Kwangtung. The task has been entrusted to General Tsao Kun, who has been vested with full powers. On the other hand, the Southerners do not intend that he should have a walk-over, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the Commander-in-Chief of the Kwangtung expedition may again become war-weary and his tired soldiers anxious to return to their homes in the North. This, however, is anticipating. Armies and money are being collected, and Kwangtung may well be apprehensive. Meanwhile, the Government has received urgent telegrams from Messrs. Chang Chung-hsiang, Alfred Sze, Hu Wei-teh, and Dr. Wellington Koo (Chinese Ministers to Japan, Britain, France and America, respectively), inquiring about the measures to be adopted by the Government in connection with an expedition to Siberia and the prevention of further troubles in Russia and North Manchuria. These telegrams are said to have been handed to the Cabinet to be brought up for discussion. And discussed they will be with the usual paucity of result.

A NEW FINANCIAL SCANDAL.

A sensational report regarding the latest manifestation of Japanese financial domination has just been published here. The report may be denied. Its early publication may, indeed, defeat the object of the promoters, but from what can be learned there is undoubtedly "something in it." The proposed transaction is described in these words:—We are reliably informed that the Government is about to put on the market 80,000,000 Gold yen worth of bank notes, as a result of protracted negotiations between Mr. Nishihara (the "unofficial Japanese Minister") Messrs. Liang Shih-yi, Lu Tsung-yu, etc. Originally, it was the intention of Mr. Nishihara to make the new bank notes of the same value as the Japanese yen, but since then the scheme has been modified. For it was pointed out that, not being a gold standard country, China has no such gold reserve, and, since the Government Treasury is so depleted, the Administration is unable to find such a large cash reserve. Accordingly a loan was contracted with the Bank of Chosen for 80,000,000 yen—not in cash, but in notes. This amount will be kept in the said bank to be held as a reserve for the Chinese Government, and 80,000,000 yen worth of notes will be printed and circulated in the market. The distributing agencies will be the Bank of China, and the Bank of Communications of Peking. Each yen under this scheme is to be worth one-half of a Chinese silver dollar, or fifty cents, since, according to the present rate of exchange, one gold yen is only equivalent to about sixty cents of a Chinese dollar. With this large amount of yen notes in circulation the notes of the Bank of China and the Bank of Communications will be redeemed at the current rate of exchange, or foreign trade may be carried on through such a novel medium. The rules and regulations governing the introduction of such paper currency consist of barely half-a-dozen articles and will soon be promulgated. Prior to the departure of Mr. Liang Shih-yi from the capital everything had been satisfactorily arranged, and therefore it is only a matter of days before the new system will be enforced. A vernacular paper

goes further and declares "that the negotiations for the above 80,000,000 yen loan were concluded between Mr. Nishihara and the Finance Minister, Mr. Tsao Ju-lin, and the proceeds will be deposited in Japan." It is difficult to understand the meaning of this transaction. Ostensibly it is to redeem the depreciated notes of the Bank of China and the Bank of Communications. But this is mere camouflage. If it is anticipated that such a move will improve the value of such notes it seems that the scheme is bound to fail, for this new coinage will only unhinge public confidence and further depreciate the value of the already depreciated notes. The 80,000,000 yen are now said to be worth fifty cents for each yen; but when the time of loan redemption is due, can China pay back fifty cents for each yen according to the present arrangement, or must she refund the actual current or normal value for each yen? In any case, it seems that the introduction of such a hybrid coinage can only result in driving out the good money.

PEKING-SUIYUAN RAILWAY.

It is often asserted that the Chinese can do nothing without the aid of the foreigner, but the Peking-Suiyuan Railway furnishes a striking exception deserving of mention and congratulation. The traffic on this line (which was entirely built and is entirely controlled by Chinese) is steadily increasing. Published figures show that the revenue for the month of May represented an increase of \$101,079 over that of the corresponding month of 1917, while the figures for the period from January to May showed the amount of increase over last year's returns to be \$223,978, and that despite the fact that the railway was closed for nearly two months during the outbreak of plague.

MONGOLIAN LOYALTY.

In these days, when so many Chinese Generals and Governors have acquired the habit of declaring their independence, it is refreshing to learn that there is a little loyalty left in China. The Bolsheviks in Siberia are reported to have sent emissaries to the Mongolian Princes of the Kuptu Banner with fair words and promises to induce them to cast off their allegiance to the Chinese Government and throw in their lot with the Bolsheviks. Their efforts, however, have completely failed and have been exposed by the Duke of the Tsalhain Banner, who has sent all the documents received by the Mongolian Princes to the Chinese Government. As a reward for his loyalty the Government has decided to grant special honours to the Duke.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Much interest is being taken locally in the erection of the new reinforced concrete American wireless mast on the Peking city wall. Unfortunately, the operations were marked yesterday by a regrettable accident. A defective guy-rope broke, throwing all the strain on the other three, with the result that they, also, gave way. The mast was torn from its foundations, and in its fall four Chinese workmen were killed.

Pity the sorrows of the ex-Chinese Imperial Court! A meeting was lately convened in the Imperial Court by the ex-Empress Yu, at which it was decided to dispose by auction of part of the silver ornaments belonging to the Imperial Household. This step is due to the fact that the Imperial family is now suffering great financial stringency through the failure of the Government to pay them the promised grants.

Monday was the beginning of Small Heat. Great Heat is due on July 24th and concludes on August 8th, so that, according to Chinese reckoning, the period of swelter should not be a long one this year.

DEAN INOE AND A PRECEDENT.

Colonel Seymour, of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and late of the United States army, told the following story at the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association at Essex Hall. Before going to Canada to join the Expeditionary Force (prior to America's entry into the war) he asked the Dean of St. Paul's whether the Cathedral would take into its care five American flags which were in his possession. The Dean agreed, and Colonel Seymour then asked Mrs. Page, wife of the American Ambassador, and Lady Perley, wife of the Canadian High Commissioner, to place the flags in their position in the Cathedral. They gladly consented to do so, and he hurried back to tell the Dean, who was horrified and threw up his hands. "To allow women to take part in a ceremony in St. Paul's Cathedral would be to establish a precedent," he exclaimed. "That's all right," said Colonel Seymour. "I come from a country where we make these things." He put it to the Dean that the five flags might be regarded as five babies, and Mrs. Page should be their mother, and Lady Perley their godmother. The Church allowed women to take part in the ceremony of baptism. And so it happened.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

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NEW GOODS JUST ARRIVED.

CRETONNES NEW DESIGNS
AND
TAFETTAS COLOURINGS.
CASEMENT CLOTHS ALL SHADES.
LACE CURTAINS NEW PATTERNS.
VITRAGE AND DAINTY DESIGNS
AND
BRISE BISE NETS INEXPENSIVE.

MOSQUITO NETTING. SHEETING. QUILTS. ICE BLANKETS. SCOURERS. GLASS AND PANTRY CLOTHS. DAMASK TABLECLOTHS AND NAPKINS. BATH AND FACE TOWELS. ETC.

PRICES VERY MODERATE.

PALMATIVE SOAP



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LADIES

\$4.50 AND \$6.00 PER PAIR.

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE.

NEW GOODS.

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HARDWARE

(YALE)

PADLOCKS, CABINET LOCKS,
DOOR CLOSERS, Etc., Etc.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

LOST.

FOX-TERNER PUP. Black Face and
Ears White Back, White Legs,
Short Black Tail. Answers to the name of
"Spot." Bass Collar.
Suitable reward on returning to—
J. GREEN,
No. 2, Broadwood Terrace,
12343



GOVERNMENT BILLS, ETC.

**TENDERS for SPECIE and MEXICAN
DOLLARS** current in this Colony,
for Telegraphic Transfer, on the London
Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury,
London, up to and for the sum of £100,000,
will be received by the TREASURY CHEST
OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT,
until 11 o'clock A.M. on the
22nd July, 1918.

The tenders to state the total amount (in
Pounds Sterling). No Telegraphic Transfer
will be made for less than £100.
The tenders to be in duplicate, and in
sealed covers, addressed to the TREASURY CHEST
OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT,
and endorsed "TENDERS FOR
GOVERNMENT BILLS, ETC."
The right to accept or reject any or all of
the tenders is reserved.
Copies of Forms of Tender can be had on
application.

Persons tendering for (Bills) are hereby
notified that having regard to the provisions
of the Act 22 George III, Cap. 45 and 41,
George III, Cap. 52, the acceptance of any
such Tender is subject to the express condi-
tion that no Member of the British House of
Commons shall be admitted to any share or
part in or to any benefit to arise from the
Contract thereby made for the allotment of
such (Bills).

The provisions in question do not apply
to Contracts entered into by any incorporated
Company in its corporate capacity and made
for the general benefit of the Company.

F. J. THURSBY-PELHAM, Lt.-Col.,
Treasury Chest Officer, A.P.D.,
His Majesty's Treasury Office,
Hongkong, 22nd July, 1918. [2247]



GOVERNMENT BILLS, ETC.

TENDERS for SPECIE current in
SHANGHAI, up to and for the
sum of £200,000 current in Shanghai,
will be received by the TREASURY CHEST
OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT,
until 11.30 A.M. on the 23rd July, 1918.

The amount accepted is to be placed by the
tender to the credit of an account with
the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION, Shanghai, so as to be available
on the 24th July, 1918.

Persons tendering to state
The amount of Dollars current in Shang-
hai per £100 (or Telegraphic Transfer on the
London Commissioners of H.M. Treasury,
London).

The tenders to be in duplicate, and in sealed
covers, addressed to the TREASURY CHEST
OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT,
and endorsed "TENDERS FOR GOVERN-
MENT BILLS, ETC."
The right to accept or reject any or all of the
tenders is reserved.
Copies of Forms of Tender can be had on
application.

Persons tendering for (Bills) are hereby
notified that having regard to the provisions
of the Act 22 George III, Cap. 45 and 41, George
III, Cap. 52, the acceptance of any such Tender
is subject to the express condition that no
Member of the British House of Commons
shall be admitted to any share or part in or to
any benefit to arise from the Contract thereby
made for the allotment of such (Bills).

The provisions in question do not apply to
Contracts entered into by any incorporated
Company in its corporate capacity and made
for the general benefit of the Company.
Any further information can be obtained by
personal application to the TREASURY
CHEST OFFICER, A.P.D.,
F. J. THURSBY-PELHAM, Lt.-Col.,
Treasury Chest Officer, A.P.D.,
His Majesty's Treasury Office,
Hongkong, 22nd July, 1918. [2248]



PUBLIC AUCTION.

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS of
the lot by Public Auction Sale
to be held on MONDAY, the 22nd
day of July, 1918, at 3 P.M., at the
Office of the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
by Order of His Excellency the Governor,
of Eight Lots of CROWN LAND at Aber-
deen, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term
of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a
CROWN RENT to be fixed by the Surveyor
of His Majesty's Lands, for one further
term of 75 years.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOTS.

No. of Lot	Approximate Area (Acres)	Approximate Area (Sqr. Yds.)	Approximate Area (Sqr. Fms.)	Approximate Area (Sqr. Rods)	Approximate Area (Sqr. Links)	Approximate Area (Sqr. Chains)	Approximate Area (Sqr. Fathoms)	Approximate Area (Sqr. Meters)	Approximate Area (Sqr. Kilometers)
1	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5
2	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5
3	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5
4	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5
5	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5
6	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5
7	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5
8	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5	10,560	1.5

WAI KEE.

FLAG & SAILMAKER.
No. 122, Des Voeux Road Central,
1st Floor,
HONGKONG.
Telephone No. 1833.

INTIMATIONS

THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

**AN INTERIM DIVIDEND OF THREE
AND HALF DOLLARS** per Share
for the six months ending 30th June, 1918,
will be payable on FRIDAY, 26th July, 1918,
on which date Dividend Warrants may be
obtained on application at the Company's
Office.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from FRIDAY, the 19th, to
the 26th July, 1918 (both days inclusive),
during which period no Transfer of Shares
can be Registered.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 10th July, 1918. [2220]

THE WEST POINT BUILDING CO.,
LIMITED.

**AN INTERIM DIVIDEND OF THREE
DOLLARS** per Share for the six months
ending 30th June, 1918, will be payable on
FRIDAY, 26th July, 1918, on which date
Dividend Warrants may be obtained on
application at the Company's Office.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Com-
pany will be CLOSED from FRIDAY, the
19th, to FRIDAY, the 26th July, 1918 (both
days inclusive), during which period no
Transfer of Shares can be Registered.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
& AGENCY CO., LTD.,
General Agents for the
WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LTD.,
Hongkong, 10th July, 1918. [2221]



NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic obtain-
ing a passport to leave the Colony should
apply in person at the Central Police
Station between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.
and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce
Passports or identification papers.

All persons with certain exceptions who
remain in the Colony for more than 7 days
are required to register themselves under the
REGISTRATION OF PERSONS
ORDINANCE, 1918.
Forms of Registration giving the particu-
lars required may be obtained at the
G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.
The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine
not exceeding \$50.

58

PLANTING PAKRO SEEDTAPE is
easy. You do not have to replant or
transplant, because the seeds germinate and
are the correct distance apart.

GRACA & CO.

No. 10, WINDHAM STREET,
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P.O. Box 620. 1849

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

FURNISHED HOUSE To Be Let at the
Peak for a year. Four Bed-rooms,
Five Bath-rooms, Grass Tennis Court.
Apply—
R. POTTER,
Prince's Building,
[2222]

TO LET.

SPEND your Holiday at Maple Bay (38
miles from Victoria, B.C., and four
miles from Duncan Station). ROOMS To
Let with Board in House on Sea. Bathing,
Boating and excellent food, fish and
salmon fishing within stone's throw.
Apply—
M. R. SPRINGETT,
Maple Bay, B.C.,
Canada. [2223]

TO LET.

COMMODOUS and Centrally Situated
NEW OFFICES, with lift, in the old
Road Central and Ice House Street.
Also in Canton House, No. 31, Shamoan,
British Concession.
For rent and further particulars apply to—
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.,
84, Des Voeux Road. [2217]

TO LET.

HOUSES on Shamoan, Canton.
No. 57, THE PEAK, LUSTLEIGH.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd. [22]

TO LET.

**NO. 7, STEWART TERRACE, No. 23
THE PEAK.**
Apply to—
Linstead & Davis,
3rd Floor Alexandra Buildings,
[2228]

TO LET.

A SHOP in Nathan Road, Kowloon.
Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE
Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings,
2000

INTIMATION

WATSON'S
FRUIT
SYRUPS.

A small quantity mixed with either

Aerated or Plain Water makes a

delightfully refreshing Summer

Drink.

Made in a great variety of

Flavours.

PREPARED ONLY BY

**A. S. WATSON &
CO., LTD.,**

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

TEL. 16.

BIRTH.

HUTTON.—At the British Legation,
Peking, to Marjory (née Price), the
wife of Commander LUTHER A.
STEWART HUTTON, R.N., Naval At-
tache, a daughter.

DEATHS.

ARMSTRONG.—Suddenly, of pneumonia, in
Montreal, on May 20th, OSCAR M.
ARMSTRONG, engineer, and late of the
Standard Oil Co., of New York, aged
32 years.
PRIY.—At La Roche Bernard, France, on
July 10th, TROPHIME PRIY, formerly
Postmaster-General, China.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 101, DES VOEUX ROAD, C.
LONDON OFFICE: 121, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 22ND JULY, 1918

TURNING THE TABLES ON
THE WESTERN FRONT.

Although many fierce battles are likely
to be fought on the Western front during
the ensuing three months we can look
forward to the issue now with greater
confidence than was possible in the early
Spring, for, thanks to the remarkable
speed with which American troops have
been transported to France since then,
the Germans no longer enjoy their former
numerical advantage. The collapse of the
offensive which the enemy launched on
a front of nearly sixty miles east and
west of Rheims last Monday, followed by
the success of the brilliant counter-stroke
which General Foch delivered on Thurs-
day with such dramatic suddenness on
the flank of the enemy salient between the
Aisne and the Marne is a welcome sign of
the new conditions. The Germans set
out with the object of securing the whole
of the right bank of the Marne from
Chateau Thierry to Chalons in order that
the river might serve as a shield for
their uncovered flank in the final march
on Paris. Instead of achieving this they
find themselves placed in a very pre-
carious position. From first to last
they appear to have been taken com-
pletely by surprise. Their preliminary
bombardment on the night of the 14th
inst. was forestalled by the French, whose
counter-preparation caught them as they
were massing for the attack and wrought

great havoc in their ranks. The Crown
Prince's Army east of Rheims failed to
penetrate the main defensive positions of
General Gouraud's force at any point
and met with a severe reverse. West of
Rheims, it is true, the enemy advanced
on a front of twenty miles to a maximum
depth of four miles, but they paid a
very heavy price. They crossed the
Marne at a number of points between
Fossey and Dormans, but the operation
involved appalling losses. A magnificent
counter-attack by the Americans complete-
ly regained possession of the south bank
of the river in their sector, many
hundreds of the enemy being drowned
in their flight. By the second day the
Crown Prince's great offensive, which
was named "the peace attack" in anti-
cipation of the far-reaching results it
was to yield, had died down into a
series of local struggles. On the third
day it was estimated that the German
casualties amounted to nearly one
hundred thousand. On the fourth
day the Franco-American troops, under
the command of General MANOIN, assum-
ed the offensive from north of Soissons
to Chateau Thierry, a distance of about
30 miles. No artillery preparation pre-
ceded the attack, which was delivered
with such suddenness that the Germans
were caught completely unawares. The
results exceeded expectations. In six
hours an advance was made equal to
double the distance covered by the enemy
in the previous three days. On the left
wing the Allies captured the high plateau
overlooking Soissons from the south-west
and either cut, or brought under fire, the
Soissons-Thierry highway, which is the
main feeder of the enemy front on the
Chateau Thierry sector, and the Soisson-
Villers Cotterets railway, which links
up the enemy forces north and south of
the Aisne. The enemy's position in this
salient is thereby seriously jeopardised,
and his offensive in the neighbourhood of
Rheims brought to a speedy and inglori-
ous end. No fewer than 16,000 prisoners
have been captured, besides considerable
material. The Americans, we are told,
fought like veterans and were irresistible.
The whole operation is regarded as one
of the most brilliant pieces of work in
the war, and, in the opinion of Mr.
Bouquie, the Premier of Australia, marks
"the beginning of the end."

Singapore has declared Hongkong an
infected port.

The Hongkong Automobile Association
is exempted from registration under the
Societies Ordinance.

Lieut. Commander G. A. Luscombe, re-
cently reported killed at sea, was a watch-
keeper in the *King Alfred*, Sir A. W.
Moore's flagship, when it was on the
China Station.

The Stewards of the Shanghai Race
Club have decided that the Autumn 1918
Race Meeting is to be held on Monday,
Tuesday and Wednesday, November 11th,
12th and 13th.

Mr. W. N. Scott, who was formerly
with Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co., of
Shanghai, has been promoted Captain and
is now in command of the 174th Chinese
Labour Corps.

At the expiration of three months from
to-day's date the *Japan Gazette Co., Ltd.*,
will, unless cause is shown to the con-
trary, be struck off the Register and the
Company will be dissolved.

The following cases of communicable
diseases were notified in the Colony on
Friday:—Cerebro-spinal fever, 2 (2
deaths); bubonic plague, 4 (2 deaths).
All the sufferers were Chinese.

Mr. C. H. P. Hay has been appointed
to act as Assessor upon appeals to the
Governor-in-Council under the provisions
of the General Military Service Ordinance,
1918, in the place of the Hon. Mr.
P. H. Holyoak.

Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse has been ap-
pointed to act as Captain Superintendent
of Police and Mr. T. H. King to act as
Deputy Superintendent of Police during
the absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. C.
McL. Messer, or until further notice, with
effect from the 17th July.

Replies to telegraphic application for
permission to export restricted goods
must be paid for. The Superin-
tendent of Imports and Exports
is, therefore, authorised to require
applicants for such permission to pay to
him the sum of \$7.50 in addition to the
cost of the homeward telegram, as from
the 1st prox.

The China Mail Steamship Co., Ltd.,
have received advice that the s.s. *China*
arrived at San Francisco on Wednesday
last.

Lieut. W. K. Tyldesley, Loyal North
Lancashire Regiment, the famous Lancas-
hire cricketer, has been killed on the
western front. He played in his last
county match at Old Trafford just before
war was declared.

Commander Valentine Gibbs, who was
killed while commanding the *Irish* in the
recent attack on Zebrugge, served on
the flagship *Barfleur* many years ago, as
a midshipman, when that ship was on the
China Station.

Mrs. A. D. Hickling has been appointed
to act as Medical Officer of Health, and
Mr. J. L. McPherson has been appointed
to act as Secretary to the Sanitary Board,
during the absence on leave of Mrs. D.
A. M. Gale, or until further notice, with
effect from the 17th July, 1918.

The death at Nagasaki is announced
of Mr. A. Jordan, Senior Superintendent
for the Far East of the Great Northern
Telegraph Company. Mr. Jordan, who
was 59 years of age, first arrived in the
Far East in 1883. For several years he
was Chairman of the Committee of the
Nagasaki Club.

An additional gift from Manila of one
case of tobacco cuttings, presented by the
La Insular Cigar Factory through the
Acting British Vice-Consul, Manila, has
been received by the Hongkong War
Charities Committee for forwarding to
London for distribution among the
wounded in hospitals.

No. 10411 Battery Sergeant-Major
(temporary Regimental Sergeant-Major)
F. R. Mullhall, R.G.A., who, before the
war was a N.C.O. in the 88th Company,
R.G.A. and the Hongkong and Singapore
Battalion, R.G.A. in this Command, has
been awarded the Decoration Militaire by
the King of the Belgians.

At the Headquarters in Tientsin of the
North China British Volunteer Corps
recently, a number of the non-commis-
sioned officers and men gathered to take
formal farewell of Captain R. C. Wills,
who is shortly leaving for Home after
two and a half years' service as Adjutant
of the Corps. It was announced that a
draft had been remitted Home and Capt.
Wills was requested to select a suitable
gift from the Corps.

The death occurred at Aden, from
enteric, on May 24th, the day after his
promotion as Colonel had been gazetted,
of Colonel F. A. Don, who was in Tien-
tsin for several years with his family,
and, on the outbreak of war, accompanied
the British Expedition to Tsingtao,
being mentioned in despatches for
his work in connection with the transport.
To his bitter disappointment he was
ordered to return to Tientsin when the
British and Indian troops which had
fought at Tsingtao were sent home. On
his return, he held a number of appoint-
ments, being Staff and Intelligence
Officer to the North China Command,
Paymaster, and, for a few months, Ad-
jutant to the Tientsin British Volunteers.
When his long-expected transfer came it
was for service in India, where he spent
a year or more organizing Camel Trans-
port for work in the Aden Hinterland.
Very sincere sympathy will be felt for
Mrs. Don, and her two little daughters
in their bereavement.

A very pleasant evening was spent
on Saturday night at Mount Austin,
when the members of the 25th Middlesex
Sergeants' Mess entertained a large
number of their friends at a most enjoy-
able smoking concert. The excellent
arrangements, which made the evening such
a success, were carried out by C.Q.M.S.
Bentley and C.Q.M.S. Tatham, R.S.M.
Gordon occupied the chair, and the
musical items were many and various.

Major F. J. Browne, Capt. Padfield,
Lieut. Eastman, Jeffries, Dickenson,
McD. Watson, and Cooper arrived during
the evening. Major Browne announced
that Lieut. Colonel J. Ward, M.P.,
C.M.G., very much regretted that sickness
prevented him from being present. The
following contributed to the programme:
—Sgt. Blaker, Mx. Regt.; Sgt. Payne,
Mx. Regt.; R.Q.M.S. Moorby, Mx. Regt.;
C.E.R.A. Small, B.N.; C.E.R.A. Lovell,
Davis, R.A.; Sgt. Hunting, Mx. Regt.;
Sgt. Craggs, Mx. Regt.; C.O. Jenkins,
R.N.; Sgt. Wallings, Mx. Regt.; Lieut.
Cooper, Mx. Regt.; C.S.M. Slocombe,
Mx. Regt.; C.Q.M.S. Tatham, Mx. Regt.;
Sgt. Rolfe, Mx. Regt.; Sgt. S. Sgt.
Lyt, A.S.C.; Sgt. Maj. Flint, R.A.M.C.;
Sgt. McKennie, R.A.M.C., and others.
Sergeants Payne and Leigh were very able
accompanists.

FAR EASTERN CABLE
NEWS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

GOVERNMENT UNABLE TO MEET
ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS.

PEKING, July 20th.
The Government, unable to meet the
repayment of the first Reorganisation
Loan, of which there is ten million
dollars due, have applied for an exten-
sion of a year, which has been granted.
Seven Kirin representatives waited
on the Minister of Agriculture and tear-
fully implored that the Forest Loan
might be cancelled. The Minister replied
that he was unable to act.

THE MURDER OF A BRITISH
MISSIONARY.

The British Authorities insist that a
representative attend the trial of the
Chinese murderers of the British mission-
ary, Mr. Graham. The Waichiaopu,
accordingly, yields.

RAIN STOPS FIGHTING.

The Government has ordered the
Northern Generals to commence the
attack on the Southerners. Yunchow
and Chenchow should have been attacked
on the 20th inst., but General Chang-chi
reports heavy rains in southern Hunan.
Therefore, it is impossible to carry out
these designs.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI
SAN PO."]

SOUTH PREPARED TO DISCUSS
PEACE.

It is reported that Liang Shiu-yi has
wired to Peking that the Military Gov-
ernment and the Special Parliament in
Canton are prepared to enter into peace
negotiations.

SHUM'S OBJECT.

The President in an interview states
that Shum Chun-huen is working for the
unity of the North and South in Canton.

PROPOSED CONFERENCES.

The State Department is preparing to
start economic, military, and foreign-
policy conferences.

INTERVENTION IN SIBERIA.

The Cabinet has commenced to discuss
the question of intervention in Siberia.

THE PRESIDENCY.

The Anfu Society has decided to elect
Tsu Sui-chang the President and Tan
Chi-jui Vice-President, so that the latter
may have the Presidency if the former
declines to assume office.

Tong Kai-kao, Tsuchun of Yunnan, has
announced that he and others will accept
peace if Li Yuen Hung is restored to the
Presidency and the unlawful Cabinet is
changed.

ATTACK ON SWATOW.

Li How-ki, the Tsuchun of Fukien re-
ports that Northern troops have com-
menced the attack on Chiu-chow and
Swatow.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

AMERICAN SHIPPING CONTRACTS
FOR CHINA.

WASHINGTON, July 15th.
The American Shipping Board has
given the Chinese Government yard at
Shanghai contracts for four cargo boats
of 10,000 tons each and taken options
for the building of 30,000 more tons.
Thirty-five thousand tons of steel will
be shipped from America, but the
engines and other fittings will be built
in China.

SIBERIA'S SEVERAL
GOVERNMENTS.

WASHINGTON, July 15th.
The *Daily Mail's* Harbin Correspond-
ent states that General Horvat's Govern-
ment includes Cadets, Liberals, Socialists
and all who are prominent in the com-
mercial, industrial, and agricultural life
of Siberia.

General Horvat is head of the Chinese
Eastern Railway. His own Government
must not be confused with the so-called
Government of autonomous Siberia,
which the Bolsheviks dissolved and whose
leader, M. Dedber, has his headquarters
in a railway-car at Harbin.

Another Socialist Government is the
Nikolek Government, which is negotiat-
ing with the Czech-Slovaks before pro-
claiming itself.

THE WAR.

ALLIES' BRILLIANT COUNTER-STROKE IN FRANCE:

16,000 PRISONERS AND IMMENSE BOOTY CAPTURED:

GERMANY'S ABORTIVE OFFENSIVE COSTS HER 100,000 MEN

MR. HUGHES ON "THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE WAR."

Franco-Belgian front.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRILLIANT FRENCH COUNTER-STROKE.

London, July 19th.

The counter-offensive succeeded extremely well and the situation is regarded as extremely promising. The absence of artillery preparation rendered the action a complete surprise. The enemy artillery reaction was very weak, whereas the French counter-battery work was most effective.

A noteworthy fact is that the French accomplished a great deal more than was achieved by the German drive on both sides of Rheims. The length of the front is practically the same, while the French advanced in six hours practically double the distance that the Germans covered in three days. So far as is at present known, the junction of the line from Soissons to Ouchy-le-Chateau, and also that from Soissons towards Fismes is under direct observation of fire from the new French position on the Crise Ravine. These two lines are the only ones by which the Germans in the Soissons-Rheims salient position can be maintained, and the German situation there will be extraordinarily difficult. Possibly, however, the Germans may have succeeded in otherwise linking up the lines.

The French counter-attack may be regarded as one of the most brilliant pieces of work in the war. They obtained most important strategic positions and the advance has ended the German offensive. Rheims is now considered comparatively safe.

The French reached all their first objectives. They lost some ground in local "scrapping" south of the Marne, but are still within effective range of the German bridges, though possibly they have lost direct observation.

The Allies regained ground further east in a good many sectors, especially west of Meuse.

Twenty villages re-captured.

Paris, July 19th.

A communiqué states:—After breaking the German offensive on the fronts in Champagne and Montagne-de-Rheims on the 15th, 16th and 17th, the French, in conjunction with American troops on the 18th, advanced in an attack on the German positions between the Aisne and the Marne on a front of 45 kilometres.

Starting from the front of Ambly, Longpont, Troesnes, and Bouresches, we considerably advanced into the enemy's lines and reached the plateau commanding Soissons on the south-west and the region of Chaudun.

Violent fighting is going on between Villers-Helwig and Normy-sur-Ourey. The troops south of the Ourcq passed the general line of Marizy-St. Genevieve-Hautevesnes-Belleau.

Over 20 villages were recaptured, and several thousands of prisoners and important booty taken.

There is nothing important to report elsewhere.

GERMANS COMPLETELY SURPRISED.

London, July 19th.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing at 7 o'clock on the evening of Thursday, says:—The Germans were so completely surprised that officers were captured while in bed and men were taken while cutting rye in the fields behind the first lines.

Heavy thunderstorms and violent rain last night enabled the "storm troops" to take up positions unobserved, and this may account for the enemy's lack of vigilance. Numerous prisoners were taken during the first hour.

The French advanced most dashingly. A battalion crossed the river at Savieres waist deep, singing.

So far the operation may be judged to be a big diversion on the flank of the enemy salient between the Aisne and the Marne with a view to arresting his offensive towards Epernay and Montagne-de-Rheims.

It is the first time since March 21st that the Allied Command has taken the initiative on such a scale, doubtless owing to the wearing down of the enemy and the arrival of the Americans.

GREAT HAUL OF PRISONERS.

London, July 19th.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing at 11 o'clock on the evening of Thursday, says:—

The importance of to-day's success has become hourly clearer. On the left wing our troops captured the high plateau overlooking Soissons from the south-west, and cut, or have under fire, the Soissons-Thierry highway, which is the main feeder of the enemy front on the Chateau Thierry sector. The Soissons-Villers-Cotterets railway is also cut.

At several points infiltration movements were effected by cavalry riding through gaps in the enemy's retreating line, establishing themselves in villages further ahead.

The haul of men and guns is the largest the Allies have made on any one day since the battle of Marmoussin in October.

The cutting of the railway prevents effective co-operation by the Germans north and south of the Aisne. It is going to be a serious problem for the Germans to remain on this salient.

Another important factor is the Crown Prince's remaining reserves. They must be gradually absorbed in the adjustment of their line, which will be necessary if the French retain the gains.

However, the situation for the Allies is not free from anxiety.

The Crown Prince Rupprecht still possesses formidable reserves, which cannot long remain inactive against the British.

It is now definitely ascertained that not more than 30 Divisions were used in the German offensive, 23 of which were drawn from the general reserve.

The Germans yesterday re-captured Prunay.

FRENCH COMMANDER THANKS AMERICANS.

London, July 19th.

Reuter's Correspondent at American Headquarters, telegraphing at 8.30 this evening, says:—After passing this morning's third objective the Americans and French south of Soissons launched a second attack at noon, which swept on so fast that cavalry was thrown in late in the afternoon. All the Headquarters Staffs were to-night well inside the territory captured this morning.

The Americans south of Soissons up to noon had counted 2,600 prisoners. Fifty guns were captured and immense material, including a number of aeroplanes, which the enemy were unable to remove. Many of the prisoners have not yet been counted.

The Americans north of Chateau Thierry captured more prisoners and an equal quantity of material. The attack progressed so far that the enemy in the vicinity of Chateau Thierry is in a risky position.

The American troops are most elated. They received the very warmest thanks of the French Commander.

The attack in the afternoon was even more dashing than that of the morning. Only here and there did badly frightened Germans attempt to stand, and the Americans rushed these with revolver, rifle and bayonet.

AMERICANS GO OVER TOP WITH A YELL.

Reuter's Correspondent at American Headquarters, telegraphing at 6 in the evening on Thursday, says:—Large numbers of American "storm troops" co-operated with the French in the powerful offensive this morning. Numerous Tanks participated. The Americans went over the top with a yell, without artillery preparation. The Germans mostly resisted feebly. Here and there stubborn fighters were quickly vanquished by American bayonets. The enemy everywhere was completely surprised.

The attack was most successful in the region of Soissons, where the final objectives were passed. The whole operation is at present more successful even than was expected. Many guns have been captured, and these included eighteen at one town.

The whole of the German left flank is menaced. The enemy must bring up troops from the Marne front or leave them in danger. The Americans, trained to the last notch, behaved like veterans. Nothing stopped them. There was the closest co-operation between the artillery and infantry. Light and many heavy guns were moved up and very swiftly deluged with shells the enemy forces retreating or in reserve.

The Tanks did all that was expected of them, preceding and accompanying the infantry and clearing many places that escaped the artillery. Hastily organised enemy counter-attacks here and there were all broken up. Resistance was most stubborn east of Chaudun.

THE EFFECT OF THE COUNTER-STROKE.

London, July 19th.

8.00 p.m.

The latest news in the early evening is that the French are still in the outskirts of Soissons. In the north sector they have captured 1,000 prisoners and 30 guns. The enemy is tenaciously resisting in the centre and the south, where, however, 18 guns and many thousands of prisoners have been taken.

It is impossible as yet to judge the full effect of the counter-stroke, but it may profoundly alter the whole position on the Champagne-Rheims front.

The French are now bombarding important enemy roads and communications along which German reinforcements, munitions, etc., have to come to the Rheims salient.

AMERICAN ARTILLERY TOO ACTIVE.

London, July 17th.

10.10 a.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at American Headquarters, telegraphing on Tuesday evening, stated:—Combined French and American forces launched a heavy counter-attack this morning between St. Agnan and Chappelle-Monthodon. So far they have driven back the enemy a varying distance on the whole sector, capturing the villages St. Agnan and Chappelle-Monthodon and Hill 223.

Comparatively large forces of Americans were engaged. We increased the number of our prisoners materially. The whole operation is progressing very satisfactorily. The Germans fought most stubbornly, but were quite unable to withstand the Allies' onrush.

Prisoners complain that the American artillery was too active and the troops fierce. We inflicted extraordinarily heavy casualties during the attack, which continues with increasing violence.

It is ascertained that the enemy has largely used up his reserves since yesterday morning.

A small enemy local attack on the Americans west of Chateau Thierry was soon repulsed.

FRENCH CAPTURE 16,000 PRISONERS AND 48 GUNS.

London, July 19th.

7.55 p.m.

The French have captured 48 guns and 16,000 prisoners.

AMERICANS PENETRATE ENEMY LINES SEVERAL MILES.

London, July 19th.

An American communiqué states:—American troops, co-operating with the French between the Aisne and the Marne, penetrated the enemy lines to a depth of several miles, capturing many prisoners and guns.

GERMAN LOSSES ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND.

London, July 17th.

Reuter's Agency is authoritatively informed that von Einem's Army is now definitely engaged on the German left, and yesterday delivered five attempts between the valley of the Suipe and Massiges, all of which were repulsed with heavy losses.

It is estimated that the German losses in the offensive so far are nearly 100,000.

ENEMY LOSSES FRIGHTFUL.

Paris, July 17th.

A semi-official report, issued yesterday, stated:—While the enemy losses were frightful ours were quite light, especially east of Rheims. If we were allowed to state the figure it would be most reassuring. Whereas in the previous offensive we had to send for reinforcements from other parts of the front, this time those on the spot sufficed to sustain the shock. This was partly due to the constant influx of Americans every day, thus reducing the disproportion of our forces.

GENERAL ATTACK NOT RENEWED.

London, July 17th.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, wiring at 11.30 p.m., states that the general attack was not renewed to-day. The operations were of a local character the balance of success being with the French. It is expected that the stabilisation of the line, will be reached in a few days. To-day's operations were dictated by the position in which various German commanders found themselves after yesterday's failure. Herein the battle differs entirely from the second day of the March and May offensives, when the Germans pursued their original plan most vigorously for several days before they were checked. The German guns east of Rheims to-day fired from the old positions, the enemy not finding it worth while to advance them.

GERMAN REPORTS.

London, July 20th.

A wireless German official report states:—Between the Aisne and the Marne the French penetrated by a surprise attack our front lines at isolated points and pressed us back.

We defeated French attacks to the south-west of Soissons to Neully.

Strong enemy partial attacks against our new lines on the whole front broke down. Enemy attacks to the south-east of Marquilly and Roi Wood, astride the Pourcy, failed.

We have taken 20,000 prisoners since July 15th.

LATER.

A wireless German official report states:—A fresh French attempt to break through between the Aisne and the Marne failed.

GERMAN REPORTS.

London, July 19th.

12.45 a.m.

A wireless German official report states:—The enemy renewed attacks with great violence eastward of Villers-Bretonneux.

A great united enemy counter-attack against our whole front southward of the Marne broke down, with very heavy losses.

Our counter-attack threw out the enemy at small places south-eastward of Marquilly, in which he temporarily penetrated.

We stormed the ridge southward of Pourcy, capturing the defenders and several guns.

A German evening official report states:—Between the Aisne and the Marne the French attacked with strong forces and tanks, capturing some ground. Our reserves participated in the battle.

BRILLIANT AERIAL WORK.

Aviators participated very brilliantly in the battle of the 16th and 17th. Bombing machines on the 16th ceaselessly attacked the Marne bridges. The Germans debouching on the northern and southern banks were machine-gunned and bombed. They lost heavily and were frequently scattered. The bridge thrown in front of Dormans was flooded with projectiles and collapsed, and convoys crossing were engulfed.

Twenty-one tons of explosives were dropped during the day and 14 tons at night on the enemy rear. There were explosions and fires, and much damage was observed.

There were numerous air fights. Twenty-nine German machines were brought down or disabled. Five balloons were set on fire. In spite of a gale and torrential showers on the 17th, good results were obtained.

Twelve German machines and four balloons were brought down or destroyed. Six tons of explosives were employed in the attacks on the Marne crossings.

GENERALISSIMO FOCH'S BRILLIANT STRATEGY.

London, July 19th.

The stroke with which Generalissimo Foch so swiftly transformed the battle position is welcomed by the newspapers as equally surprising and brilliant in its results. It is perhaps the most cheering to the Allies since 1914.

Even those most optimistic on Tuesday when the extent of the German defeat east of Rheims was known were hardly prepared for the dramatic speed with which Generalissimo Foch's strategy developed.

Experts compare it with the battle of the Oureq in September, 1914, by which General Manoury prepared the way to the great victory on the Marne.

None of the previously brilliant episodes of the war have given such solid ground for confidence as this double operation of defence and attack. Nevertheless, a warning is uttered against over-sanguine anticipations.

It is pointed out that the enemy is certain to violently react against the menace to his whole position on the Marne, and Generalissimo Foch, now that he has reached the enemy communications, may be content to hold the territory won without attempting to push the advantage further.

FRENCH RE-TAKE MONVOISIN.

Paris, July 19th.

A communiqué states:—Between the Aisne and the Marne, overcoming the resistance of the enemy, who had brought up fresh reserves, we last evening advanced appreciably and took more prisoners. The battle continues bitterly.

West of Rheims we delivered lively attacks yesterday.

South of the Marne we have re-taken Monvoisin and have thrown back the enemy to the eastern outskirts of Oeuilly.

North of the river we progressed in Bois-du-Ros and Bois-du-Coustant, between La Poterie and Poncey, and carried our lines a kilometre to the west of that point.

Farther north the Italians carried the Ardre mill and captured ground in the region of Bouilly.

We took over 400 prisoners and captured four guns and 30 machine-guns in these actions.

Between Montdidier, Noyon and Woëvre, we took 100 prisoners in raids.

GERMANS HAVE SHOT THEIR LAST BOLT.

Paris, July 19th.

The news of the splendid counter-offensive spread most rapidly. The Parisians were overjoyed. The general opinion is that the Germans have shot their last bolt.

COMMANDER OF COUNTER-OFFENSIVE.

London, July 19th.

The Commander of the counter-offensive is General Mangin.

He fought with General Gouraud in several Colonial campaigns, and was responsible for the re-capture of Douaumont in 1916. It was he who arrested the German tide near Montdidier after the falling back of the British, while recently he commanded the big counter-attack at Belloy, which pulled up the enemy's thrust towards Compeigne.

THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH SOUTHERN ARMY.

New York, July 20th.

Correspondents in France mention the new French General Degonatte as commanding the Southern Army in the present battle.

BELL-RINGING AT NEW YORK.

New York, July 19th.

The brokers on the Stock Exchange cheered the Allies' success on the Western Front and prices rose.

The Mayor gave an order that the City Hall bells should ring for 15 minutes in the afternoon in celebration of the victorious Allied advance.

COMMONWEALTH ASSEMBLY CHEERS.

Melbourne, July 17th.

The Assembly cheered the favourable news from France, and also the King.

AMERICAN CO-OPERATION.

Washington, July 17th.

Mr. Baker, Secretary for War, says the Americans co-operated with the French both as complete Divisions and as battalions in French Divisions.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

RAID BY YORKSHIRE TROOPS.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The Yorkshires successfully raided south-eastward of Robecq, capturing 30 prisoners.

AERIAL OPERATIONS.

London, July 19th.

12.30 a.m.

We dropped 114 tons of bombs on July 17th, on dumps and railways and on the Brugnoise works.

A few enemy machines were encountered. We shot down three aeroplanes and drove down one. One British machine is missing.

We also shot down six balloons in flames.

London, July 20th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, says:—We bombed many targets, including dumps at Armentières and Mericourt, the railway stations of Rosieres and Bray, and the docks at Bruges and Ostend.

We brought down nine aeroplanes. Seven British machines are missing.

Our night-fliers dropped eight tons of bombs on the Mons-Valenciennes Railway, also six tons on the Courtrai, Seclin and Lille railways.

Two aeroplanes did not return.

BRITISH CAPTURE METELEN.

London, July 20th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The Scottish troops captured Metelen village, gaining all their objectives and taking over 300 prisoners and a number of machine-guns.

Under cover of this operation the Australians advanced their line to a short distance southward of Metelen, taking over 80 prisoners and ten machine-guns.

We also captured a few prisoners in raids and patrol encounters in the Nieppe Forest sector.

RAIDERS DRIVEN OFF.

London, July 19th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We drove off raiders in the Villers-Bretonneux and Mericourt sectors.

We successfully raided in the neighbourhoods of Buequoy, Willevaert and Loere, securing prisoners.

GERMAN ACTIVITY IN FLANDERS.

Amsterdam, July 19th.

There is considerable German activity in Flanders. A thousand young recruits and over 200 aviators have been sent to the front.

Much repaired war material is being transported to the south.

Naval Activities.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH TRANSPORT SUNK NO CASUALTIES.

London, July 19th.

The Admiralty states:—The transport *Barrington*, bound for Australia with unfit Australians on board, was torpedoed and sunk on July 15th.

There were no casualties.

FULLER DETAILS OF THE TORPEDOING.

London, July 20th.

The following are the details of the *Barrington* torpedoing. The explosion shook the ship from stem to stern, extinguishing the lights and tossing the patients out of the berths. Two bulkheads collapsed, but though the ship seemed to be rapidly sinking there was not the slightest panic. Men took their stations singing Australian songs and jokingly watched the half submerged submarine circling at the stern, 200 yards away. The gun-crew was flattened out by the explosion but jumped to their feet and fired at the submarine which disappeared. Seven boats and twenty rafts got away. The ship was crowded with 800 invalids, including a dozen helpless cripples. The steamer soon settled down. Many had to jump to reach the rafts. British warships dashed up and manoeuvred to create a wash, shepherding the floaters in their direction. The sea was a spectacle of extraordinary confusion. Men were clinging to all sorts of objects and sometimes resembled an aquatic carnival. The swimmers exchanging badinage. Nevertheless, some incapacitated men, especially shell-shocked men, suffered terribly. Many floaters who were exhausted by the cold took long to reanimate. The rescue was a miracle. The discipline and organisation of the soldiers and their tenderness for their suffering mates were heart-stirring.

BRITISH SLOOP TORPEDOED.

London, July 19th.

A British sloop was torpedoed and sunk on July 16th.

No officers and only twelve of the crew were saved.

Italian front.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

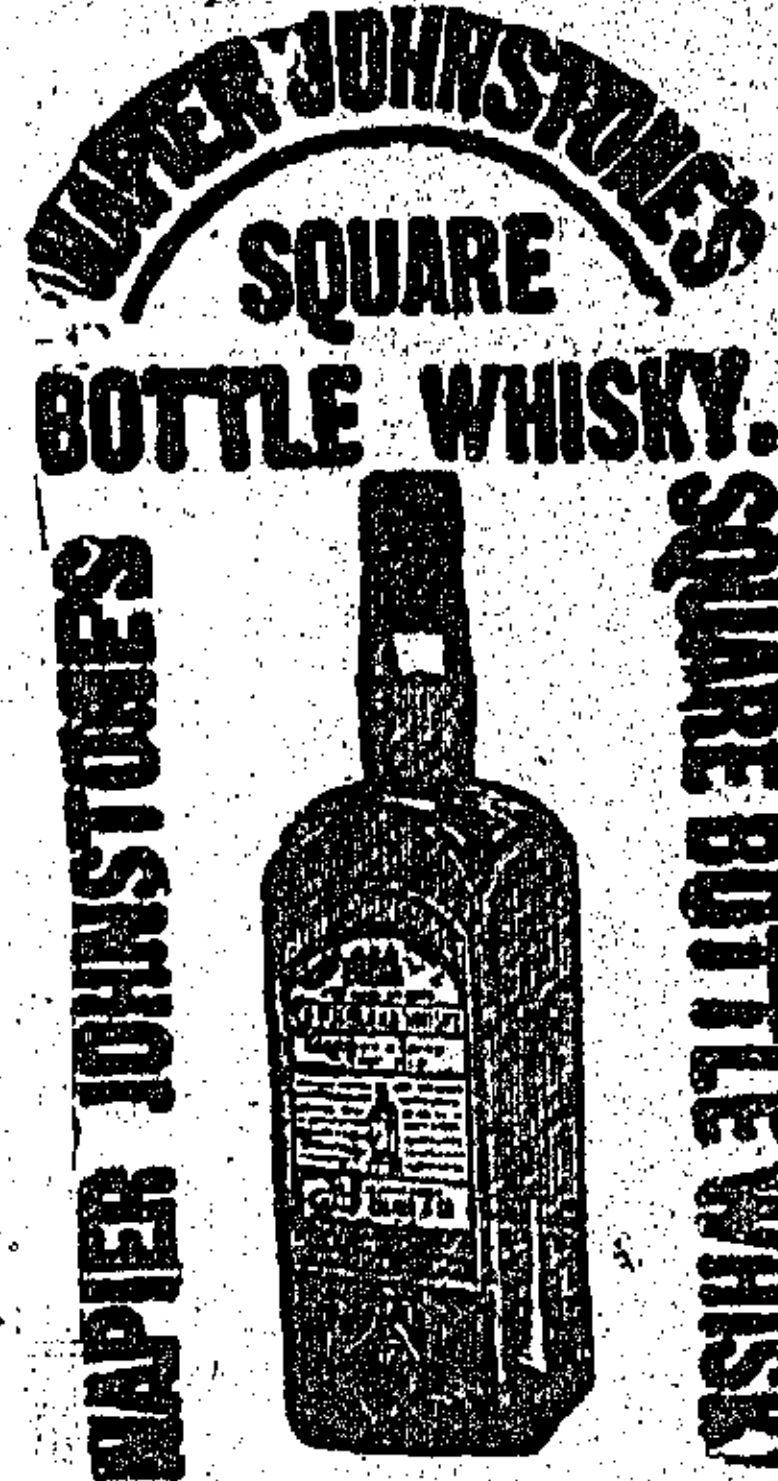
AN AUSTRIAN ADMISSION.

London, July 15th.

A wireless Austrian official message from Albania states:—The enemy is gradually pressing forward against our new line of resistance.

(Continued on Page 4.)

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THE WAR.

(Continued from Page 2.)

franco-Belgian Front.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE FRENCH FRONT.

FRENCH ATTACK AND ADVANCE.

PARIS, July 18th.

A communiqué says:—We attacked this morning from the region of Fontenoy on the Aisne as far as the region of Belleau.

We advanced at certain points from two to three kilometres.

We have taken prisoners.

There was no change during the night on the Marne and in Champagne.

South-west of Nanteuil-la-Fosse we brought to a dead stop a violent enemy attack.

North of Prosenne an attack by enemy Guard troops failed completely.

FRENCH MAKE CAPITAL PROGRESS.

LONDON, July 18th.

Stop press news, received this evening, concerning the French counter-offensive, shows that the attack began at 4.30 in the morning, on a front of 27 miles. Tanks participated, but there was no artillery preparation.

On the extreme left, the French captured the heights overlooking Fontenoy and progressed to Mont-de-Paris, which is within a mile of Soissons, and reached the ravine of the river Crise, close to Soissons, on a front of five miles to Brezany. This is a maximum advance of nearly eight miles at the deepest point.

FOUR THOUSAND GERMANS CAPTURED.

It is reported that 4,000 prisoners were taken and 20 guns captured, besides other material.

AMERICANS ADVANCE FURTHER SOUTH.

The Americans participated, and further south the Americans captured Vierzy and advanced three miles beyond.

Further south again, on the heights overlooking the valley of the Ourcq, the enemy reacted just as in a somewhat hasty counter-attack. No information has yet been received as to what occurred there.

Still further south, the French are on the western outskirts of Chony Neuilly-St. Front, and from there to Belleau, the average depth of the advance being about three miles.

East of Rheims the French recaptured Prunay.

[THROUGH THE HAVAS AGENCY.]

FRENCH GENERAL'S ADMIRABLE DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS.

PARIS, July 18th.

An Associated Press despatch to the New York Herald relates how General Gouraud, the mutilated hero of the Dardanelles, barred the Crown Prince's road in Champagne, eastward of Rheims, and brought the Germans to a standstill in one day, with comparatively insignificant losses among his own men, as a consequence of his admirable defensive preparations.

Over 20 enemy Divisions have been identified in the first line on this sector of the front alone. By the end of the first day's fighting, half of these Divisions had been so badly handled that they have lost part of their value as fighting units for a time.

The precautions the French had taken before the offensive began were such that the Germans were unable to capture a single prisoner in Champagne for several days preceding the attack. They were thus deprived of the possibility of obtaining information regarding the French plans.

POINT-BLANK TARGETS FOR FRENCH FORCES.

When the German artillery preparation started on the night of July 14th the French replied with equally powerful fire, and everything, for many miles, trembled until dawn when the German infantry came over. The advancing waves were of great density, giving hundreds of French "seventy-fives" a point-blank target. At the same time, the small centre of resistance, comprising French advance posts, opened fire with machine-guns, which did terrific execution; these isolated detachments holding up the enemy masses for several hours and giving ample time to their comrades holding the line of resistance to organize and bring into play all their means of defence. The perfect execution of General Gouraud's defence plans prevented the enemy making a breach at any point of this sector, although during the 24 hours the Crown Prince threw incessantly renewed waves of his best troops forward in his determination to get through to Châlons.

GERMAN ATTACK INTENDED AS MAIN EFFORT.

PARIS, July 17th.

More information now to hand shows the importance of the Divisions engaged by Germans in the present battle regarding quality and number, and it helps to the conclusion that the attack was intended as a main effort.

About 20 Divisions have been in action between Rheims and Chateau-Thierry and the same number between Rheims and Massiges.

Numerous corps, being all first quality troops and representing the *élite* of the German Army, have been identified.

These fine Divisions have been sorely tried in the attack and so reduced in numbers that they will not, for some time, appear again on the battlefield.

ENEMY LOSSES TERRIBLE.

It is fully confirmed that the enemy losses have been terrible. Even before the attack was launched their ranks were thinned by the French counter-preparation fire which caught them "massed" in their trenches for the attack.

GERMANS GREATLY SURPRISED.

The surprise to the German troops has been, according to the prisoners' statements, very great. Following their usual custom, the officers had been putting heart into them with talk of easy victory and telling them they would find in front of them only a thin demoralised line of troops. The offensive, with the same object, has been dubbed *Frieden Sturm*, meaning "Peace Offensive." The Germans were so sure of success that they counted on reaching Conde-en-Brie by mid-day on the first day and on spending the night at Montmirail.

Actually, the enemy's situation on the south bank of the Marne is now precarious, the difficulties of supply being enormous. They may be able to continue their local attacks at various points, but their great offensive is already completely broken.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

PILES OF ENEMY DEAD ON HILL SLOPES.

LONDON, July 18th.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing this morning, states:—Fifty German Divisions were brought up on July 15th, some of whom were not engaged, so it is open for the enemy to pursue the attack. The enemy suffered very heavily at the Moronvillers massif, advancing under the eyes of French artillery observers. Piles of dead are distinguishable on the slopes of the hills. A notable feature in eastern Champagne is the smooth working of the carrier-pigeon service under the German bombardment.

GERMAN COMMENT.

LONDON, July 18th.

Reuter's Correspondent at Amsterdam says that comments in the German Press on the offensive are characterised by a singular restraint. The military correspondent of the *Vossische Zeitung* admits the difficulty of using the factor of surprise and says "Without surprise success is hardly to be expected." He expresses the opinion that "we are only at the beginning of the offensive." Other experts take the same line.

BIGGER BLOW PROBABLE.

Authoritative quarters in London advise caution in predicting the course of events on the Western Front. Undoubtedly the German attack of July 15th was intended to bring off a great strategic success, but as this has not materialised it is not improbable that they will utilise a large number of divisions still in reserve to deliver an even more powerful blow elsewhere.

PARIS BOMBARDMENT CONTINUES.

Paris, July 18th.
The long-range bombardment of Paris continues.

The Near East.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE CAMPAIGN IN PALESTINE

AUSTRALIANS INFLICT SEVERE LOSSES.

LONDON, July 18th.

A Palestine official message says:—The Australians, in a counter-attack at Abatek on July 14th, inflicted severe losses.

There were 121 dead on one Brigade front alone.
We bombed El Kettani and Aoman stations, hitting troops, camps and aerodromes.

Aerial Activities.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ROOSEVELT'S SON REPORTED UNHURT.

NEW YORK, July 18th.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt has received a cable from his son-in-law, Surgeon-Major Derby, in France, saying that a "companion" airman is confident that Quentin landed unhurt.

AIR RAID ON PARIS.

PARIS, July 18th.

An air raid warning was given at midnight. "All Clear" was signalled at 12.45 a.m.

AERIAL TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHT.

WASHINGTON, July 18th.

The *Daily Mail*, referring to the rumoured possibility of a South American airman attempting to fly across the Atlantic this year, repeats its offer of £10,000 sterling for the first trans-Atlantic flight.

NAVAL AERIAL ACTIVITY.

ENEMY DESTROYER HIT.

LONDON, July 18th.

The Admiralty states:—Between July 11th and 17th Air Force units, co-operating with the Navy, bombed and machine-gunned enemy destroyers off the Flanders coast, directly hitting a destroyer. On one of these occasions five enemy seaplanes approached, but immediately withdrew.

Enemy aircraft was active and attacked our bombers.

We destroyed three aeroplanes and drove down four. Two British machines are missing and two "crashed" after collision.

Our bombers hindered enemy attempts to salvo the destroyer recently sunk off Zeebrugge.

ITALIANS BOMB POLA.

LONDON, July 18th.

An Italian official message states:—On the night of the 16-17th Italian Naval airships and aeroplanes dropped 8,000 kilograms of bombs on military works and the maritime fortress of Pola.

Naval aircraft re-bombed Pola on the morning of the 17th, on both occasions with visibly good effect. They also bombed successfully hangars in the Isle of Lagosta, in the middle of the Adriatic. All our machines safely returned.

MILITARY WORKS AT CATTARO AND ANTIVARS ATTACKED.

LONDON, July 18th.

An Italian Naval communiqué states:—A large squadron of Italian seaplanes bombed military works and ships at Antivars, seriously damaging them.

A British air squadron effectively bombed military works at Cattaro.

RAIDS IN GERMANY.

WORKS, RAILWAYS AND POWDER FACTORY ATTACKED.

LONDON, July 18th.

The Air Ministry reports:—On the night of the 18th we bombed the Benz works at Mannheim, where a fire broke out, the railway station at Seidelburg, the blast furnaces of Burbach and Wadgassen, and also an aerodrome. Two trains were hit by bombs, brought to a standstill and machine-gunned.

We attacked a powder factory at Oberndorf on the 18th. Bursts were observed on the buildings. All our machines returned.

RAIDS ON GERMAN RAILWAY SYSTEM.

LONDON, July 18th.

The Press Bureau has issued a striking photograph of the damage caused by raids of the British Independent Air Force on the German railway system at Metz Sablon. It shows exceptionally destructive bursts in the engine sheds, and workshops and the remains of two incinerated trains. Great damage to the network of lines is also shown. A significant feature is the almost complete absence of rolling-stock, thus showing that the 21 raids since June 21st upon this important junction have materially reduced the enemy's war traffic.

LONELY RAIDER OVER THANET.

LONDON, July 18th.

The Press Bureau announces that a hostile aeroplane flew over the Isle of Thanet at a great altitude on the evening of July 18th, but was immediately driven off.

General.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE WAR.

THE PREMIER OF AUSTRALIA'S VIEW.

LONDON, July 20th.

Mr. Hughes, at Cardiff, responding to the toast of the "Honorary Graduates" at the University of Wales' dinner, yesterday evening, said that General Foch's stroke was "the beginning of the end of the war." If the Germans failed now they failed utterly. The great American Republic could not be beaten, nor could Great Britain, unless some creeping paralysis attacked the will of the people. We only needed to stand firm and not create conditions of peace which would provoke fresh aggressive wars. After two years' absence he found the spirit of the people of England better than it was in 1916. They understood more completely every day what the war meant spiritually and materially. Therefore, we were going on. It was a matter of life or death for the Dominions and for Australia.

GERMAN VENGEANCE ON ROUMANIANS.

AMSTERDAM, July 19th.

The Roumanian Chamber decided by 115 votes to prosecute the Bratiano Government, thus yielding to Germany's demand for the punishment of the Ministers who decided upon Roumanian participation in the war.

THEIR MAJESTIES' SILVER WEDDING.

GIFTS FROM FAR EAST.

LONDON, July 20th.

Their Majesties continue to receive silver wedding congratulations, also gifts of money for charities. For example, 350 women in Hongkong have sent £1,023, and the women and children of all nationalities at Penang and Singapore sent £525 and £855, respectively.

EXCLUSION OF LICHNOWSKY.

AMSTERDAM, July 19th.

The *Dusseldorfer Nachrichten* states that the majority in the Prussian Upper House voted for the permanent exclusion of Prince Lichnowsky from the Upper House. The minority favoured temporary exclusion.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

BRITISH OCCUPY KEM STATION.

AMSTERDAM, July 15th.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* says that the British troops who landed on the Murman coast advanced and occupied Kem Station on the White Sea.

CZECHO-SLOVAKS CAPTURE KAZAN.

The *Tageblatt* announces that the Czech-Slovaks, despite the heaviest resistance of the Red Guards, have captured Kazan.

The *Tageblatt* adds:—By the occupation of this important railway and waterway junction the Czech-Slovaks become masters of the Government of the Lower Volga.

THE BLACK GUARDS.

LONDON, July 15th.

The German newspaper states in connection with the capture of Kazan by the Czech-Slovaks, that the latter are utilising Trotsky's mobilisation in the Urals, on the Volga and in West Siberia for their own purposes by forming from the recruits the so-called Black Guards, which are being used for strengthening the Czech-Slovak and other counter-revolutionary forces.

THE ALLIES AND RUSSIA.

NEW YORK, July 20th.

The Associated Press Correspondent at Washington states that negotiations continue between the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan regarding the character of the aid to be given to Russia. No agreement has been reached.

FRANCE'S NATIONAL DAY.

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG'S GREETING.

LONDON, July 18th.

The Press Bureau announces that Sir Douglas Haig, in a message to President Poincaré, says:—On the occasion of your national anniversary, I am expressing, on behalf of the British armies in France and beyond, our admiration for the magnificent French army. The rallying of free nations in the past year in the fight for civilization, and the closer cohesion of the Allies' military forces, affords us an assurance of victory. We look forward to the future with absolute confidence.

AMERICAN NAVAL OFFICERS DECORATED.

LONDON, July 20th.

The Press Bureau announces that the following decorations have been conferred upon American Naval officers:—G.C.M.G.—Vice-Admiral Sims. K.C.B.—Rear-Admiral Rodman. K.C.M.G.—Rear-Admiral Strauss.

ALIENS' BILL.

LONDON, July 21st.

In the House of Commons, the Government accepted a new clause in the Aliens' Bill providing that no certificate of naturalisation be granted for a period of five years after the war to a subject at present in enemy countries unless he is of a race which is opposed to his Government.

NATIONALITY BILL.

LONDON, July 19th.

The House of Commons unanimously passed the third reading of the Nationality Bill.

INDIA'S GREAT ADVANCE.

LONDON, July 18th.

Sir Robert Borden, Sir J. G. Ward, Mr. W. F. Massey, and Mr. E. S. Montagu were present at a luncheon by the Indian residents of London to the Indian Representatives to the Imperial Conference.

Responding to the toast of "Our Guests," Sir R. Borden said that nobody could look back on the events of the last eighteen months without feeling how necessary and desirable it had been for the inclusion of India in Imperial gatherings. On behalf of Canada, and indeed of all the Dominions, he wished the people of India "God-speed" in the great advance which lay before them.

BRITISH MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS.

LONDON, July 19th.

The Press Bureau states:—Sir Worthington Evans (Unionist M.P. for Colchester) has been appointed to succeed Lord Robert Cecil as Minister of Blockade.

Lord Robert Cecil is appointed Assistant Foreign Secretary.

Major-General Seely is appointed Parliamentary Secretary and to act as Deputy Minister of Munitions.

The Hon. Waldorf Astor (Unionist M.P. for Plymouth) is appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Food Ministry. Owing to the increasing burdens of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Balfour has expressed a wish that Lord Robert Cecil should take a larger and more responsible part in the work of the Foreign Office.

FOOD PRODUCTION IN GT. BRITAIN.

LONDON, July 18th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Prothero stated that over 300,000 women, 60,000 soldiers and 10,000 German prisoners and interned aliens were now working on the land. The arable area of Britain had been increased by over 2,000,000 acres. The wheat and oat acreage had each been increased by 750,000 and the potato acreage by nearly 950,000. Given an average harvest, the position of the Allies was decidedly better than in 1917 or 1916, and the relief to our tonnage by not having to bring supplies from America was of the greatest assistance.

THE RETIRED ITALIAN GENERALS.

LONDON, July 18th.

It is officially explained that a wrong inference has been drawn regarding the announcement made on July 13th concerning General Cadorna and others. They have been placed on the Retired List because they are no longer holding active commands, but this in no way implies that they are being punished, more particularly as the whole subject of the Caporetto defeat is still under investigation.

GERMAN VOTE OF CREDIT.

OPPOSED BY INDEPENDENT SOCIALISTS.

AMSTERDAM, July 14th (Delayed).

The Reichstag passed a Vote of Credit of fifteen thousand million marks. The Independent Socialists voted against the measure and the Poles abstained from voting.

The Reichstag has adjourned for the summer recess.

COUNT HERTLING'S REFERENCE TO BELGIUM.

It is noteworthy that Count Hertling's reference to Belgium was omitted from the first official report of the speech, which simply said "Count Hertling reviewed the political situation in the west." It was subsequently published with a covering note that the passage was now given fully in order to dissipate any possible misunderstanding in the public mind.

THE "CLAN ROBERTSON" REFLOATED.

Buenos Aires, July 16th.

The *Clan Robertson*, mentioned on July 14th, has been beached in the roadstead and refloated.

FAMOUS JUGGLER'S DEATH.

LONDON, July 18th.

The death is announced of the famous juggler Ciquervalli.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, July 18th.

The silver market is quiet.
LONDON, July 19th.
The silver market is quiet.

UNITY OF THE ALLIES.

LORD CURZON AND PEACE.

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR ON THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE.

Earl Curzon, the Japanese Ambassador, and many members of the Diplomatic Corps were the guests of the Foreign Press Association at luncheon recently in the Criterion Restaurant.

M. Coudurier de Chassigne presided. Earl Curzon, who was heartily cheered on rising to reply to the toast of "Our Guests," said:—"We who have fought and bled and suffered for nearly four years in the most just of wars, in a war not provoked by us, but forced upon us by the insatiable ambitions of others, do not wish to see all these sacrifices thrown away and expended in vain. An unjust peace, if it were now concluded, could only be the precursor of new and worse wars in the future. It would not only be the victory of crime now, but the justification of renewed crime in the future. (Cheers.) It would be setting up unbridled force as the new criterion and standard in international affairs. And, above all, it would not mean the settling, but the unsettling, of all the great world problems which we are looking to solve on a peaceful basis when this horror comes to an end. (Cheers.) Only yesterday I was reading in the papers a list of the countries which, since August, 1914, have declared war upon Germany. There are nineteen States in all, and, in addition, nine countries have broken off diplomatic relations with Germany. It is a great achievement on the part of the German Emperor to have united against himself this great aggregation of the civilised States of the world. There was a man in early Grecian history who thought to attain immortality by burning down the Temple of Diana at Ephesus. He secured his end; and the German Emperor, I daresay, will secure his also, but it is an inglorious and ignominious form of immortality which he will achieve. (Cheers.)"

AMBASSADORS OF PUBLIC OPINION.
These who represented the Press of Allied and neutral countries, Lord Curzon went on to say, played a most important part in the progress of the present struggle. They were the artists who painted from day to day, for the benefit of foreign audiences, the aims, the policy, the character, and the war effort of the Allies who resided in this country. From their pens went out to the world the picture upon which the opinion of foreign countries was formed. The chairman had spoken of them as the ambassadors of public opinion in foreign countries, but they were rather more than that. They were in the position of a tribunal to whose judgment we had to refer, and which was in daily and weekly session on our conduct. The foreign Pressmen combined the advantages of friendship with us and detachment of mind. They resided here, but they were free from our insular prejudices and prepossessions. They could imagine, therefore, what weight the world must attach to the verdict they pronounced. (Hear, hear.)

In the task in which they were engaged—and here he was speaking more especially to the representatives of the Allied nations—they had to be in constant contact with the Press campaign which was by no means the least of his efforts. It was conducted with all the calculated forethought, the scientific organisation, the mathematical, and almost brutal, precision which characterised the chief efforts of the German mind. The Press campaign was not confined to his own country. It permeated the neutral countries and penetrated into the Allied countries also. He spared no money in his undertaking. There was no resource of intrigue or ingenuity of which he was not a master. The chief peril seemed to him to be that when the enemy was affecting to discuss peace conditions they would find that he was almost invariably more concerned about sowing dissension between the Allies than he was about prosecuting peace. He endeavored to cut away the different members of the Alliance from their persistent prosecution of the common end.

"We have all of us to defend this campaign," said Lord Curzon, "and you gentlemen who represent the Press of foreign countries have to try to keep the truth clear in the midst of all this attempt of artificial fog which is continually being discharged into the air. It is essential that our enemies should be shown that they have to meet a united front, not only of the Armies, the Navies, and the Governments, but also of the peoples. (Cheers.) They must be convinced that there is no single party in any one of the Allied countries which would be prepared to condone the unutterable ignominy of purchasing an ignominious peace by itself while sacrificing the objects for which the others are contending, for in truth these objects are identical. The success of one can only be obtained by the success of all. Belgium, France, Italy, Serbia, Roumania, each desire the same thing—the integrity of their national territory, security against aggression and conquest, and they demand these things as a right to be won by their united forces, and protected in the future by the common law of Europe. (Cheers.)"

CAUSE OF NATIONS.
"Day by day we see the power of Germany being extended with ruthless persistence over enemy and friend alike. Any illusions there might have been in the past are now swept away, and the issue is plainer than it has ever been since the beginning of the war. In these circumstances the part of the Press seems to me to be of great importance. It is not to be led up to subtle suggestions deliberately away from to sow dissension among the Allies. It is to refuse a hearing of any kind to the idea that problems with which we are confronted can be solved by backstairs influence, by family intrigues, by

dynastic agreements, and all the paraphernalia which recalls the obsolete diplomacy of the eighteenth century. Yours is the duty to remember that the cause for which we are fighting is the cause of nations—that the issues must be determined by the voice of the peoples themselves, the discussions must be free, open, and public, and that no solution is possible until the German Government and the German people are prepared to recognise the principles for which the world, both of Allies and neutrals, is contending and will contend to the end. (Cheers.)"

There is yet another function which the Press of the Allied and neutral countries can discharge—that of maintaining the unity of interest, the harmony of action, and the closeness of co-operation which have sprung up from the circumstances of the war. What is the most notable outcome of our years of war? It is the progressive attainment of the unity of peoples. (Cheers.) This is due partly to the action of the enemy, but it is also due to the justice of our cause. Unity of aim there always has been from the commencement of hostilities. Unity of action has only been slowly reached, but it has come. We have a great deal about the possibility of creating a League of Nations in the future. Do not ignore the fact—for it is a fact—that a League of Nations, the most powerful that has ever been constituted, is already in existence. (Cheers.) Unity of command has been attained during the last few months. It has been born amid the thunders of the battlefields, but it is complete, it is working well, and it is loyally and steadily accepted not merely by the Governments, but by the armies and the commanders of all the States concerned. (Cheers.)

ENDURING UNITY.
"There is something greater than unity of aim, unity of action, or unity of command—that is the unity of heart and spirit of all the nations who have thus been brought together. That unity may have sprung out of the necessities of the war is over. It must go on and endure. To it we must look to build up the shattered fragments of the world. (Cheers.)"

Look at the foundations from which it has sprung. It is a unity cemented by common action and in suffering on the battlefield. When we read of the blood of Englishmen and Frenchmen trickling into the same trenches on the slopes of the Mont Kemmel, or the same mound of earth, when we look in Italy at French, British, and Italians fighting side by side against the common enemy, when we go to Salonika and see French, British, Italian, Serbians, Greeks together, when we see the millions of India flocking to the standard and the action of the statesmen of Japan and China, does anything mean to tell me that that unity is a mere passing evanescent symptom of war, and that when the war is over all this will die down and leave no impression? That is a unity cemented by suffering representing all that is best in the brotherhood of man, a unity destined to endure. After the war there is going to be a regrouping of the forces of the nations in the world, and in this moral and spiritual unity the hope of the future lies. By that unity alone can we hope to re-establish the world from the ruin in which it now lies broken, to which alone can we look for peace and security. This generation has borne the burden and paid the price. The next generation must reap the reward. (Cheers.) It is for the united world to see that that reward is obtained, and for a powerful, able, honest, and pure Press to assist in the consummation of this great purpose. (Cheers.)"

DIPLOMATS AND CORRESPONDENTS.
The Japanese Ambassador (Viscount Saito Chinda), dealt with the associated work of diplomacy and the Press. He believed, he said, in the mutually beneficial result of creating very friendly and sympathetic relations between diplomacy and correspondents. If there was any need to prove these good relations in London they would not have far to go to seek it—it was there in that gathering. (Cheers.) Between diplomats and the foreign Press representatives there was a common purpose and a common aim, the cultivation and promotion of good feeling between the two nations, and their effort should be complementary. Proceeding, he referred to the talk in these days of "open diplomacy." They had, he said, had an example of its application and the disastrous result in the Eastern part of Europe had been very much to their edification. (Hear, hear.)

JAPAN AND ENGLAND.
His Excellency proceeded—Lord Curzon referred to the attempt on the part of the Central Powers to sow the seeds of dissension and suspicion in the ranks of the Allies—that it may call for want of a better term the "disruption offensive." According to the last report, the German Foreign Office at the Wilhelmstrasse is said to have issued a pamphlet in a very cheap edition, entitled "The World's Future War." In this Japan is depicted in lurid colours as fighting against England. That is one means of their propaganda. Another thing I hear is that, according to a late report, some of the Press in Berlin are taking up and discussing the question of the future alliance between Germany and Japan. You can see through all these machinations. They are meant, of course, to alienate Japanese feeling, and to sow mistrust in the minds of the Allies.

I do not think it necessary for me to refute these allegations, because they are so monstrous, so preposterous, that they carry in them their own refutation. (Cheers.) But I want to state that, whatever other national faults or shortcomings may be laid at the door of Japan, assuredly disloyalty to plighted word is not one of them. (Cheers.) We have shown that already by our deeds. You remember the reason why we went into this war—Japan was one of the earliest Powers outside Europe to enter. What was the cause? The object of Britain and Japan in declaring war was almost identical. They did so from the highest sense of honour to live up to their engaged word. (Cheers.) In your case it was to maintain your guarantee as to the neutrality of Belgium; in our case to live up to the terms of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. (Cheers.) But all such vile machinations of the Central Powers to sow dissension will be refuted by themselves, and, indeed, are not worthy of refutation. (Cheers.)

CHURCH REFORM.

IMPORTANT PROPOSALS.

That the Church of England stands in need of reform, and that the reform should be radical, and almost drastic in its scope, is the view obviously taken by the Archbishop's Committee, which has recently issued its report. The most salient of the recommendations are as follows:—

- (1.)—Instead of a lifelong incumbency, it is now suggested that a parson should only have a limited tenure.
- (2.)—Parishioners have a right to be consulted with regard to the appointment of an incumbent, and therefore the Parochial Church Council should have a voice in the matter.
- (3.)—The minimum stipend for an incumbent should be £400 a year, and for the unbeneficed clergy who have been five years in orders £200.
- (4.)—In order to bring the laity into the work of the Church, statutory Parochial Councils should be established.
- (5.)—In the selection of bishops, the Prime Minister should have the help of an advisory committee.
- (6.)—The houses assigned to bishops should be no longer called "palaces" or "castles," and their size and importance modified.
- (7.)—Women should have the right to vote for aid serve on all councils of the Church which include representatives of the laity.

It will be remembered that five committees of the Church of England were appointed some two years ago to examine into "subjects in the life of Church and nation" which, in the words of the Prime Minister in a foreword to this report, "stood out with obvious claim for rehandling." The report makes many recommendations designed to free the Church from historic encumbrances and endow her with new force and vitality and as the "word points out, these have the high authority which belongs to the opinions of specially qualified men and women who have devoted long months to their elaboration."

The Bishop of Southwell and his colleagues deal with a variety of matters. The proposals which they make concern the vesting of ownership of all the land and houses of the Church in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; the redistribution of endowments; extension of power to the laity in the management of Church affairs; retirement of the clergy (including bishops) at 70; an advisory council of bishops, clergy, and laity for consultation by the Prime Minister in regard to the appointment of bishops; the abolition of the sale of advowsons, except to certain "church bodies"; the desirability of reducing episcopal incomes; the abandonment of certain episcopal residences.

TEN YEARS' INCUMBENCY.

On the question of the appointment of an incumbent, the committee say:—"We feel that the parishioners have a right to be consulted with regard to the appointment of an incumbent, though we do not favour a system of election by the parishioners. We also consider that the bishop should have power to refuse institution to a man whom he thinks ill-suited to the parish, though this power should be constitutional and not arbitrary. We therefore recommend that the Parochial Church Council should have a voice in the appointment of incumbents; and in the case of an appointment by the proposed Patronage Board two representatives of the Parochial Church Council should sit with the Diocesan Board for the purpose of selecting a candidate. In the opinion of the bishop it is undesirable that a clergyman presented by the patron should be instituted, or if the Parochial Church Council objects to the person nominated, the bishop shall refer the nomination to a Board of Assessors, who shall be the Patronage Board, and such nominee shall not be entitled to institution without their concurrence. Failing such concurrence a patron will have the right to nominate again. In the event of further disagreement the nomination for that turn shall, after six months, lapse to the bishop. This should apply to all parochial benefices. Where the objection is made by the bishop and is not supported by the Parochial Council, there shall be an appeal to the Archbishop against refusal to institute."

As things would be, a parson, once presented and instituted, is "here for life if he so pleases, unless he brings himself under the action of the law by scandalous conduct. The 'parson's freehold' is one of the objects of English institutions, and we recognise the advantages secured by it in the way of freedom from either arbitrary action by the bishop or the agitation of parishioners. It is desirable that an incumbent should be dismissible at the pleasure of either the bishop or the parishioners. But we hold that the advantage is purchased at too high a cost. Very often a man remains in one parish for very many years to his own and the people's loss. The best men will be encouraged in their ministry by the knowledge that they are not irrevocably fixed in one place. We are now dealing with questions of discipline, but the danger of mere stagnation or the indefinite continuance in one parish even of a man who may be an excellent priest. We therefore propose that institution to a benefice should in future be for a term of years—say, ten years—and require renewal, on the understanding that the Church makes itself responsible for the life and work of the man ordered to its ministry. It would, of course, only be proposed to apply this system to incumbents instituted in future. These incumbents would be instituted for ten years, and would at the termination of that period be in the same position as a nominee to a benefice after he has been presented by the patron and before he has been presented by the bishop. But the possibility of making this reform is dependent on sound scheme of finance and a central or diocesan control of Church property, and also a properly organised system of exchange of incumbencies."

CLERGY'S MINIMUM WAGE.

With regard to the proposed "minimum wage," the report says the present distribution of endowments, determined by no relation to the work done, is a

scandal, and a serious hindrance to the spiritual work of the Church in many parishes, and continues:—

"The first necessity is to secure for every clergyman a living wage, and further (a) that the minimum stipend for an incumbent should be £400 per annum, and for the unbeneficed clergy who have been five years in orders, £200; (b) that, with a view to securing this, a considerable number of benefices should be effected, and that to attain such union of benefices compulsory powers should be given; (c) that to the same end a large measure of redistribution of endowments be effected; (d) that this living wage cannot be secured without greatly increased contributions from the laity on an organised system."

Those who from outside criticise the Church for having a parish with virtual close by thickly populated parishes are, however, do not generally realise that there is at present no means of effecting a redistribution. The great mass of the Church's endowments are the property of the several bishoprics, chapters, and incumbencies. In the case of the episcopal endowments, however, the difficulty has been got over by the establishment of the Ecclesiastical Commission. We desire that the same precedent be now followed, and the same principles applied with regard to the whole of the Church's property. Consequently we go so far as to recommend that the whole of the land title and houses belonging to the Church should be vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and that in every diocese there should be a representative board of management which should submit schemes of arrangement to the Commission."

With a view to bringing the laity more into the work of the Church, the report gives a general support to the proposal to establish statutory Parochial Church Councils. But it suggests that in the meantime voluntary councils of the kind should be set up, and that they should be competent to consider questions connected with the services and ornaments of the church. In case of disagreement between the incumbent and the majority of the council, the bishop should decide. The passage dealing with the appointment of bishops is in these terms:—

"The method by which bishops of the Church of England are chosen is admittedly open to criticism. In days when the power of the Crown has largely passed to the Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister may be of any religion or none, it cannot be regarded as natural or appropriate that he should be entrusted with the undivided responsibility of advising the Crown. We recognise gladly that the existing method has led to the advantage of the Church through the inclusion in the Episcopate of many men of outstanding qualities who would probably not have been selected by any method of election. But the present system leaves the Prime Minister to choose his own advisers, and it is easy for a belief in the existence of secret influences to arise and to create anxiety and discontent. We therefore recommend that an Advisory Council, consisting in equal parts of representatives of the Episcopate, of the clergy, and the laity, be elected by the Representative (or later on the Statutory) Central Church Council to advise the Prime Minister with reference to the recommendation of bishops to the Crown, in each case of vacancy two representatives of the diocese concerned, one clergyman and one layman, should be appointed by the diocese to sit with the Advisory Council for consultation purposes in the appointment, however, to rest with the Crown. Further, the committee wish to retain the realities underlying the ceremonial and the procedure incidental to the confirmation of the election of bishops."

"THE REAL SCANDAL."

The committee considered the whole question of the incomes and residences of bishops. The bishop, the report says, needs a house of considerable accommodation. But it need not be vast, and in any case the life should be simple. The following resolutions were agreed to:—

- (a)—That it would remove misconception, if it is practically possible, to distinguish between the official administrative outgoings and the personal income of the bishop.
- (b)—In this connection would arise the desirability of reducing certain episcopal incomes, the standard adopted for the new dioceses being followed. However this could be done must depend (1) upon the value of money after the war; (2) upon the question whether the larger episcopal residences are retained. The committee are of opinion that soon after the conclusion of the war the question of these houses should be seriously considered with reference to the circumstances of each particular diocese, and that if the larger houses are abandoned the larger income should be reduced with due regard to the real value of money at the time;
- (c)—That episcopal residences which are neither the cathedral nor in the centre of population should be abandoned, but houses of historic interest should be retained, if possible, for some purpose connected with the life of the Church;
- (d)—That the name of bishops' residences deserves consideration, and that the use of the words "castle" and "palace" be discontinued;
- (e)—That the real scandal consists in the disparity between the large incomes, not only of some bishops but also of some other dignitaries and incumbents, and the miserably small incomes attached to other posts in the Church.

The committee express the opinion that, "whereas it has been a serious loss that the voice of women has not been heard in the councils of the Church, women should have the right to vote for and include representatives of the laity." They also urge that, in order that the cathedral may become truly the centre of the diocese, it should be more closely associated with the bishop, and that there should be a rearrangement of cathedral endowments; that, Convention be reformed in such a way as to make the lower clergy more representative of all clergy who hold a bishop's licence; that the number of provinces should be increased; and that the Church should at the earliest possible moment recover freedom of legislation through its own representative assemblies. If (says the report) the Church could in these assemblies "define its own law, the task of the bishop would become far simpler, and the claim of the law upon both clergy and laity would be undeniable."

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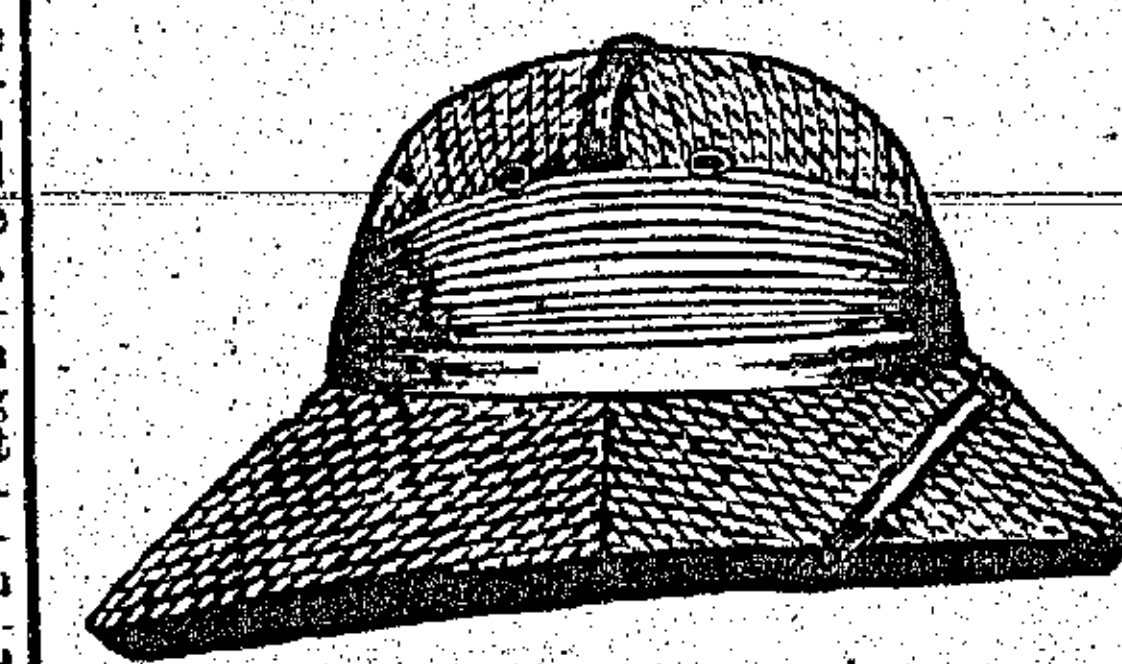
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